

Hafa Adai!

Mayor RB Camacho appeals for community support. **PAGE 2**

Antonio Borja sworn in as BOE Tinian member. **PAGE 3**

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'We are all in to rebuild trust'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Treading on the same ground where the CNMI swore in its first governor 45 years ago, newly sworn in Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang each reiterated a promise to restore and rebuild the people's trust in the Commonwealth government.

Palacios and Apatang took their oaths as the CNMI's 10th governor and 13th lieutenant governor, respectively, during an inaugural ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

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REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Patricia Coleman, the interim dean at the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services, served as the

mistress of ceremony at the installation of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

See **NOTEBOOK** on Page 4

Deleon Guerrero makes history as first female Senate president



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Former Senate president Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), right, turns over the gavel to Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) yesterday after she was unanimously voted to the post at the organizational session of the 23rd Legislature's Senate yesterday.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) made history following the 23rd Legisla-

ture inauguration ceremony yesterday as the Commonwealth's first female Senate president.

Deleon Guerrero, who was sworn in as the first female Senate president, said she is committed to rebuilding trust in the government.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Arnold I. Palacios and David M. Apatang wave to the crowd after taking their oath of office as the CNMI's governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, during an inaugural ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

Villagomez re-elected House speaker

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

As expected, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) was re-elected as the House speaker for the House of Represen-

tatives of the 23rd CNMI Legislature.

Villagomez was unanimously re-elected to the position during the inauguration and organizational session of the House of Representatives yesterday.

yesterday.

According to Villagomez, he is grateful for the support and trust his colleagues have shown him. "I am very grateful for their support and trust that they have bestowed upon me...,"



Villagomez

he said.

As far as plans for the 23rd House of Representatives, the main goal is to work together to further

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Dive into what may be the only art café in the CNMI, the ocean-themed Bada Art Café.

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OVERDRIVE

The 2023 Genesis G90 is a first-class interpretation of first-class mobility.

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LIFE & STYLE

Prince Harry defends his decision to publish a memoir that lays bare rifts inside the royal family.

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Mayor RB Camacho appeals for community support

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, who was sworn into office in an inauguration ceremony at the parking lot of the Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday morning, said he needs the help of the community in order to ensure that his office succeeds, and that he can't do it alone.



By first working together, it is a step in the right direction, he said.

Camacho

“Our new way forward—together! Starting today, we can make a difference in our community. We can bring different organizations, nonprofit groups, different ethnic groups, different religions. I want to bring them in. I want them to help me help and promote a safe community, a safe village, and a clean island.”

He shared that during his time as assistant chief of police, he just looked at the apprehension of criminals, but now, he wants to go about the route of prevention and, with that, he wants to establish Neighborhood Watch Programs throughout the villages of Saipan.

The four pillars that can come out from the Neighborhood Watch program are care, understanding, trust, and respect, he said.

"I want to educate the community. ...Where are the resources to combat all the unacceptable activities? It's us. Community is the solution to the village problem. ...Let's not wait until somebody gets seriously hurt before we react. I want to look at being proactive, not reactive. This is about the community—us here. ...Please join us and let's all work together and join me to promote a safe community, safe villages, and a clean island community," he said.

He also likened his bid for mayor to baseball, saying that he ran for mayor for the third time and finally got it on his third try. "Strike one, strike two—but I didn't strike out. When I hit the ball, the ball

See MAYOR on Page 4



'Selection of Cabinet members will be one step at a time'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday that he and Lt. Gov.

David M. Apatang have appointed now some Cabinet members in an acting capacity.

In an interview shortly after their inauguration ceremony,

Palacios said they will be starting to appoint some of the special assistants.

"I wanted to do this one step at a time and not get over-

whelmed with it, and very careful," he said.

The governor said they pretty much have a list of Cabinet members, but not for every de-

partment as they are still in the selection process.

He said they are being careful in trying to get a good cross-section of the community.

Palacios said they are looking at the younger generation who are highly educated.

He said they will announce some of their Cabinet members appointments starting today, Tuesday, or next week.

When asked how he feels now that the inauguration ceremony is over, the 67-year-old Palacios said they feel good, but also exhausted.

"That was a long two or three days. But it's the formal

turning over of government administration," said the governor, referring to all inauguration activities, including yesterday's swearing in.

He said the last few days has been quite exhausting, but that it is something that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang have to go through.

Palacios is thankful to the media for the coverage throughout the past months.

After lunch yesterday, they would be start talking to their staff and meeting with "critical folks" that happened to be on island, such as federal and military officials, the governor said.

Antonio Borja sworn in as BOE Tinian member

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

Antonio Borja is now the Tinian representative on the CNMI Board of Education following a short inauguration ceremony yesterday at the CNMI Board of Education's main office on Capital Hill.

The ceremony took place shortly after 8:30am, and Borja was joined by members of the Board of Education as well as several of his family members as he took his oath, which Associate Justice Perry Inos administered. Breakfast was

served just outside the conference room after, and although it was drizzling outside, the venue had been prepared and set up with tents.

Borja expressed gratitude to his family as well as every BOE member and staff present for all their support. "I would like to thank everyone for coming in today," he said. "We're going to continue to work. ...Let's work together, let's continue to push for our students, for our teachers, and for our staff. You just have to remember that it's student first." Borja, who was the only



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Associate Justice Perry Inos administers the oath of office for new Board of Education member Antonio Borja yesterday at the CNMI Board of Education's conference room on Capital Hill.

BOE member to be inaugurated that morning, will serve a term of four years. The inau-

guration of Saipan's re-elected BOE member, Andrew Orsini, is to follow.

NMC's spring 2023 semester begins next week

Northern Marianas College is reminding individuals who are seeking to advance their education or their professional careers that they can apply for and register for the college's spring 2023 semester. Registration is ongoing throughout this week. The first day of classes is on Jan. 17, 2023.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records located in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu. Supporting documents (i.e., transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.)

must be submitted to the Office of Admissions & Records or via email at admissions@marianas.edu on or before Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, by 12pm.

Students who do not meet the requirements for the transcript evaluation are required to take the Math and English placement tests. A schedule of the placement test dates can be found at www.marianas.edu. Students can also make an appointment to take placement tests by calling 237-6774. New and readmitted students must also view the online student orientation program in order to register for courses.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science

in education (concentration in early childhood education, elementary education, rehabilitation and human services, or special education), bachelor of science in business management (concentration in accounting or without concentration); associate of arts in business, associate of applied science in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of applied science in hospitality management, associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, pre-engineering, social work, or without emphasis), associate of science

in nursing, associate of science in agriculture, associate of science in natural resource management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and associate of science in fire science technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72/73 or visit www.marianas.edu/spring2023. (NMC)

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: RFP23-DOL/OSHA- 42300025

SUBMISSION DATE: February 10, 2023 TIME: 9:00 A.M

"CNMI OSHA On-site Consultation Website"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT Horiguchi Bldg, Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VICKY BENAVENTE
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/S/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
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Website: <https://cnmiports.com>

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2023

Opening date: January 09, 2023 Location: SAIPAN Position(s): (1) Receptionist/Secretary (1) Ports Police Officer I	Closing date: January 27, 2023 SALARY PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr. to \$15.10/hr.) PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
Location: PORT OF SAIPAN Position(s): (1) General Maintenance III	SALARY PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
Location: TINIAN Position(s): (2) General Maintenance I (2) Custodial I 4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	SALARY PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.) PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr. to \$12.42/hr.) PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 27, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION OF
OF SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT CO., LTD

Saipan International Hotel Management Co., Ltd, a CNMI Company/Corporation. Does Hereby Certify Saipan International Hotel Management Co., Ltd.

First: That dissolution was authorized by the company on December 31, 2022.

Second: That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, Section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation regulations.

Third: That process may be served against the corporation at the following address: PMB 388 BOX 10003 Saipan MP 96950.

Fourth: That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.

Fifth: That number of votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution.

In Witness Whereof, Said, Saipan International Hotel Management Co., Ltd, has caused this article of dissolution to be signed by the following Board of Directors on this 31st day of December 2022.

Approved By: /s/ Lianfu Wen President Email: ovr2335888@gmail.com	/s/ Xiangdong Yu Vice-president Contact No.: (670) 989-9969	/s/ Yu Wen Treasurer/Secretary
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Dental Assistant Needed

Renewal (1) Full-Time

New Wave Dental is looking for one employee to work as Dental Assistant. Must have (12) twelve months experience in dental assisting. Applicants must have knowledge in dental procedure and dental terminology and be familiar with CDT Code and Nomenclature.

Interested applicants may submit their CV or Resume at the office location in Microbeach Road, Garapan SaipanMP 96950 during working hours from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 to 5:30. Interested applicant may also contact Dr. Michael Hall at telephone number (670) 233-3300 or (670)483-4868. Interested applicant may also send their CV or Resume at email address newwavedentalsaipan@hotmail.com or mikehalldds@hotmail.com

TRUST

From page 1

lieutenant governor, respectively, at an inauguration ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe in an event that also saw other inauguration ceremonies happening in other places across the CNMI.

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro administered the oath of office for the 67-year-old Palacios, while Associate Justice John A. Manglona administered the oath for the 74-year-old Apatang during the ceremony that lasted only about an hour and seven minutes, said to be the fastest gubernatorial inauguration ceremony in CNMI history.

The Commonwealth’s first governor, Carlos Camacho, was also sworn into office at the same site 45 years ago.

Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, a member of the U.S. Congress rep-

resenting American Samoa, was present at yesterday’s ceremony. She was joined by Guam Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Palau President Surangel Whipps Jr., Chuuk Gov. Alexander R. Naruhn, Philippines Consul General John U. Hilado, U.S. District Court for Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, and U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

In his speech, Palacios said he and Apatang saw more than a year ago that the Commonwealth was facing a moment of crisis and in need of leadership. “While we should be sitting back and enjoying retirement for a second time, what we saw more than a year ago motivated us to reconsider,” Palacios said. “Our people deserve better than where we’re at today.” *See Palacios’ speech on Page 9*

Palacios said that, by taking their oath of office, they are recommitting themselves to another term of public ser-

vice and to lead the Commonwealth from this moment of crisis.

“We are all in to rebuild trust, restore confidence, and bring back integrity and credibility to our government,” said Palacios, drawing cheers from dignitaries, guests, and people, who watched the ceremony under several tents put up in the parking of the multi-purpose center.

He promised no easy answers or quick fixes, saying it will entail plain hard work and sacrifices.

Taking a swipe at former Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Palacios said what propelled people in the November elections is fiscal accountability and the growing evidence of squandering of tax dollars.

He said that, with disaster recovery efforts incomplete and a continuing global health pandemic taking a toll on the economy, there is a need to use public funds wisely.

He said they will work closely with the Legislature

to push through initiative to stabilize the fiscal health of the government; review past use of public funds and pursue, with the assistance of the Attorney General, the options of recoupment from those individuals and companies.

“Our people deserve better,” he said, again drawing cheers from the crowd.

With respect to the Department of Public Safety, Palacios said DPS needs a major overhaul. He said they will be appointing a DPS commissioner who has the extensive enforcement experience who will emphasize training of officers, upgrade investigative facilities, and reestablish the cooperation that the CNMI once have with federal agencies.

“We will ensure that our essential front-line workers are taken care of and treated fairly,” Palacios said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

NOTEBOOK

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Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Coleman also served as the mistress of ceremony at the inauguration of Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente held at the American Memorial Park in Garapan in 2002. Babauta, as well as Gov. Benigno R. Fitia, was present at yesterday’s inauguration ceremony. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

The inauguration ceremony for Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang was scheduled at 10am, but it started at about 10:30am. At 11:37am, Patricia Coleman, the mistress of ceremony, announced the conclusion of the event and declared that it was the shortest gubernatorial installation in CNMI history. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

It was raining early yesterday morning, but then stopped in the area of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe about an hour and a half before the start of the inauguration ceremony for Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. The weather was perfect as it wasn’t hot. Shortly after the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony, it started to drizzle again. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) was unable to attend the inauguration ceremony for Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, a member of U.S. Congress representing American Samoa, was among the dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony. Radewagen, a Republican, is the first woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from American Samoa. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

It was raining during Mayor Ramon “RB” Camacho’s inauguration, but everyone was friendly and in good spirits. There were fresh coconuts served as refreshments and with the tents decorated with leaves and flowers, the traditional vibes of the Marianas was quite strong. *(Leigh Gases)*

Although the mayor’s inauguration started at 8:30am, the parking lot and field area surrounding the Saipan Mayor’s Office was already filled by 8am. *(Leigh Gases)*

It wasn’t raining the whole time before the remarks of the mayor—just a drizzle—but when he took the spotlight, a heavy downpour came down and he was almost drowned

out by the loud pattering of rain on the tents. It helped that Camacho spoke loudly and the speakers and microphone worked properly. At the end of his speech, he said the rain was a blessing and everyone clapped. Surprisingly, that was when the rain stopped. *(Leigh Gases)*

With the formalities of the ceremony over, people went up to the stage to congratulate, thank, greet, and take selfies and photos with the new mayor. He acknowledged everyone, shook their hand, and also hugged those who reached out to him, and they were all smiles. Although it was overcast, it didn’t rain again. *(Leigh Gases)*

At the governor and lieutenant governor’s inauguration, traffic in front of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose building reduced the flow to just two lanes. People had to park either at Saipan World Resort, Joeten, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, or elsewhere. All the tents were packed with people and many dignitaries from all over the Pacific came to witness the event. *(Leigh Gases)*

The ceremony was very formal and fitting for both Gov. Arnold Palacios and Lt. Gov. David Apatang, complete with a traditional blowing of the conch and the CNMI color guard parading and putting up both the CNMI and U.S. flags for singing of the anthems; and although it started late due to technical difficulties, the ceremony ended right before noon. *(Leigh Gases)*

Newly sworn in Board of Education member Antonio Borja remarked on his considerable height after several picture-taking sessions, since Borja was noticeably taller than the rest, prompting Associate Justice Perry Inos to playfully call Borja the “Shaq” after 7’11” former NBA player Shaquille O’Neal. *(Chrystal Marino)*

During his acceptance speech, the room erupted in applause after newly sworn in Board of Education member Antonio Borja mentioned that the day was also his daughter’s birthday. *(Chrystal Marino)*

Because of the limitation of space in the conference room, Board of Education key members and staff filed in and out of the room during picture-taking sessions, and the use of microphones was necessary so those unable to go inside the conference room may also hear the inauguration from outside. *(Chrystal Marino)*

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DELEON

From page 1

unanimously voted to the post at the organizational session of the 23rd Legislature’s Senate yesterday, took over the position previously held by Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who has held the position since 2013.

In a later interview, she said she is humbled by the trust the people and her colleagues have in her. “I am extremely humbled and give honor to the people and to my colleagues in the Senate as well,” she said.

As the CNMI’s first Senate president, Deleon Guerrero said she wants to not only take charge, but also nurture and bring harmony.

“Being the first female Sen-

ate president makes me feel like taking charge of a family, to nurture, to balance, and to bring harmony for a better tomorrow as we plan and chart our path for a better and secured Commonwealth,” she said.

“I place my faith and trust in our Lord to be the daily source of light and guidance in this journey and responsibility that I have been entrusted with,” Deleon Guerrero added.

As for her plans in her new role, Deleon Guerrero said she ultimately wants to work with local and federal partners to establish economic initiatives that are viable for the CNMI.

“I would like to engage more conversations with our local and federal partners where we can come up with economic initiatives that are viable for our Common-

wealth, to include having an economist and to encourage and have engaging and analytical reviews of our financial standing where we can explore money-making opportunities for our Commonwealth’s financial stability and longstanding obligations,” she said.

As far as her goal for the Senate as a whole, she wants standing committees to be proactive in terms of looking into pressing issues within the Commonwealth.

“I would like for the standing committees to be very proactive in looking at the pressing issues that our Commonwealth is faced with relative to their standing committee’s focus of responsibilities,” she said.

It was a big day for all female senators of the 23rd

CNMI Legislature. with all female members landing important roles.

Aside from Deleon Guerrero, Sen. Corina Magofna (D-Saipan) was unanimously chosen Senate floor leader, while Sen. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) was unanimously voted legislative secretary.

Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) hand was elected Senate vice president.

In addition to the elected Senate officers, the five other inaugurated senators are Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Dennis Mendiola (R-Rota), Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian).

At House of Representatives, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) was re-elected House speaker.

Court for the NMI.

Delbert Pua was the master of ceremony and introduced the dignitaries in attendance, along with Camacho and his family.

Rep. Vincent Aldan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Diego F. Camacho (D-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Arriola Flores (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Manny Gregory Castro (Ind-Saipan), Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Malcolm Jason Omar (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Thomas John Manglona (R-Saipan), Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Rep. Julie Atalig Ogo (Ind-Rota).

fielders went back, the umpire was looking for the ball, but they couldn’t find [it]—the ball never dropped. The chief umpire had no choice but to

say, ‘home run’!”

Before his remarks, the oath of office was administered by the Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District

tested all the years he has served in this body and I am honored to nominate him,” he said

In the 2022 general election, Villagomez received 1,945 votes.

It will be his seventh term in the House.

Villagomez took over the speaker position in January 2021.

Aside from Villagomez, the House of Representatives unanimously voted in favor of Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan) as vice speaker and unanimously chose Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan) as floor leader.

The 17 other inaugurated representatives are Rep. Roy Christopher Ada (R-Saipan),

financially. Gov. Palacios has mentioned that he will open up the books, and I hope he does sooner than later so that we can work together in taking care of the issue.”

Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), who made the nomination to re-elect Villagomez, said that if there is any one person who has faced some of the most challenging trials the CNMI has endured, it is Villagomez, which makes him worthy of re-election.

“[Villagomez] has faced three impeachment proceedings, a government shutdown, government furloughs, and the first speaker to ever sign off on contempt charges against a CNMI official. He has been

MAYOR

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popped up so high, the out-

SPEAKER

From page 1

improve the CNMI economy, he said.

“For now, I would like to have the members get settled into their offices. Get the committees organized. I know that every member has goals and priorities and I would like to see how we could bring all that together and work together in facing the challenges that lie ahead. One thing I think we can agree on is the economy. We need to continue to work on developing and improving the economy,” he said. “I would like to get a clear picture of where we’re at

Report: BMV lacks the means to streamline services

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following a look into the Department of Public Safety’s Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Palacios-Apatang administration’s transition team determined that the BMV lacks the necessary equipment needed to streamline its services to the community.

According to the DPS transition team’s report submitted to the transition committee last week, BMV lacks the pertinent standard equipment to streamline the process of acquiring the registration of vehicles/vessels/heavy equipment, licensing, and records, as well as an inadequate server room. Only one scanner-printer was effectively networked. All other scanner-printers were not networked, and therefore ineffective. The collection and preservation of data was saved to the hard drives at each station and none of the data is moved to a central data point for digital preservation. The server room is functional. The security cameras in the BMV registration area are working. The server room has a variety of disconnected cables and storage items. The server room is separated from the DPS main building’s server. Work is still conducted manual-

ly,” said the report.

In addition, the transition team found that the BMV’s Real ID does not work in certain areas of the United States as it isn’t connected to the federal government’s information center.

The Real ID was essentially promoted by the bureau as a travel document similar to a passport when travelling within the United States; it is supposed to be linked to federal servers that allows TSA to access vital information like criminal history.

“The ‘REAL ID’ licenses being issued do work in certain areas and do not work in others. The CNMI is not networked with the federal government’s National Crime Information Center,” said the report.

Also, the transition team found that the BMV’s firearms and records section’s processing of records is conducted manually.

“Both of their digital fingerprinting machines are broken and are utilizing an ink and paper fingerprinting process, which is more time-consuming. A record search for an individual’s license is conducted manually. The file folders are located on a library-style rolling cabinet system,” the report stated.

The transition team recom-

mended that the new administration have the BMV work with the IT Department and the CNMI Department of Homeland Security in creating a data network system that is accessible to all relevant parties.

“Patrol officers are unable to run license plates due to systems failures and either complacency or incompetency in inter-departmental communication and interaction. BMV must create or procure a practical software solution for records that gives officers real-time information and a statewide integrated traffic records system,” the report said.

“The officers in [BMV] must maintain the same level of professionalism and training as a patrol officer within their specific field. Officers at BMV must receive training and certifications in Microsoft Office, printer usage, office networking, and any related software and tasks. Each officer must also have a clear working knowledge of all components of their work environment, to include surveillance cameras, electronic data storage areas, electricity backup and breaker boxes, and who are the armed officers present and on location for security. Training should bring awareness and awareness should create solutions,” the report added.

WEATHER ADVISORIES

High surf until 6am today

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Tuesday, based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point.

Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet is expected in the surf zone of north facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

This will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

The public is advised to stay out of the water along north facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don’t swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or

wave for help. (PR)

Warning out vs sailing

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Tuesday. This means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, northeast winds of 15 to 25 knots and occasional gusts of up to 35 knots are expected. Seas of 8 to 10 feet are also expected in Tinian and Saipan coastal waters. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

An impinging trade-wind disturbance is interacting with a shearline, producing winds and seas hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 10:00AM** at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

To minimize the threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j> (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of December 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
- PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
 - CRM Permit Application No. CRM-MS2022-0003 (formerly SMS-2012-X-061-A1)**
Project: KANNAT TABLA QUARRY OPERATIONS EXTENSION AND NEW CEMENT BATCHING PLANT AND HOLLOW BLOCK MANUFACTURING FACILITY
Applicant: USA FANTER CORPORATION LIMITED
USA Fanter Corporation Limited is proposing to extend its quarry operations to April 30, 2027 and to construct a new cement batching plant and hollow block manufacturing facility on its public land property identified as Lot Nos. 040 H 12 and 040 H 13 in Kannat Tabla, Saipan.
 - Agencies' Discussion
 - Agencies' Final Determination
 - CRM Permit Application No. CRM-MS2022-0002 (Amendment to SMS-00-X-129)**
Project: CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW KAGMAN TRANSFER STATION
Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to construct and operate a new solid waste transfer station along Gabgab Road in Kagman, Saipan. The new Kagman Transfer Station includes road improvements of the existing Gabgab Road that leads to the transfer station and is designed to function as a community convenience center for residents to dispose their household solid waste.
 - Agencies' Discussion
 - Agencies' Final Determination
- OTHER MATTERS
- ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-011

LOWER MIHA SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on January 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-23-011, Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 7, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

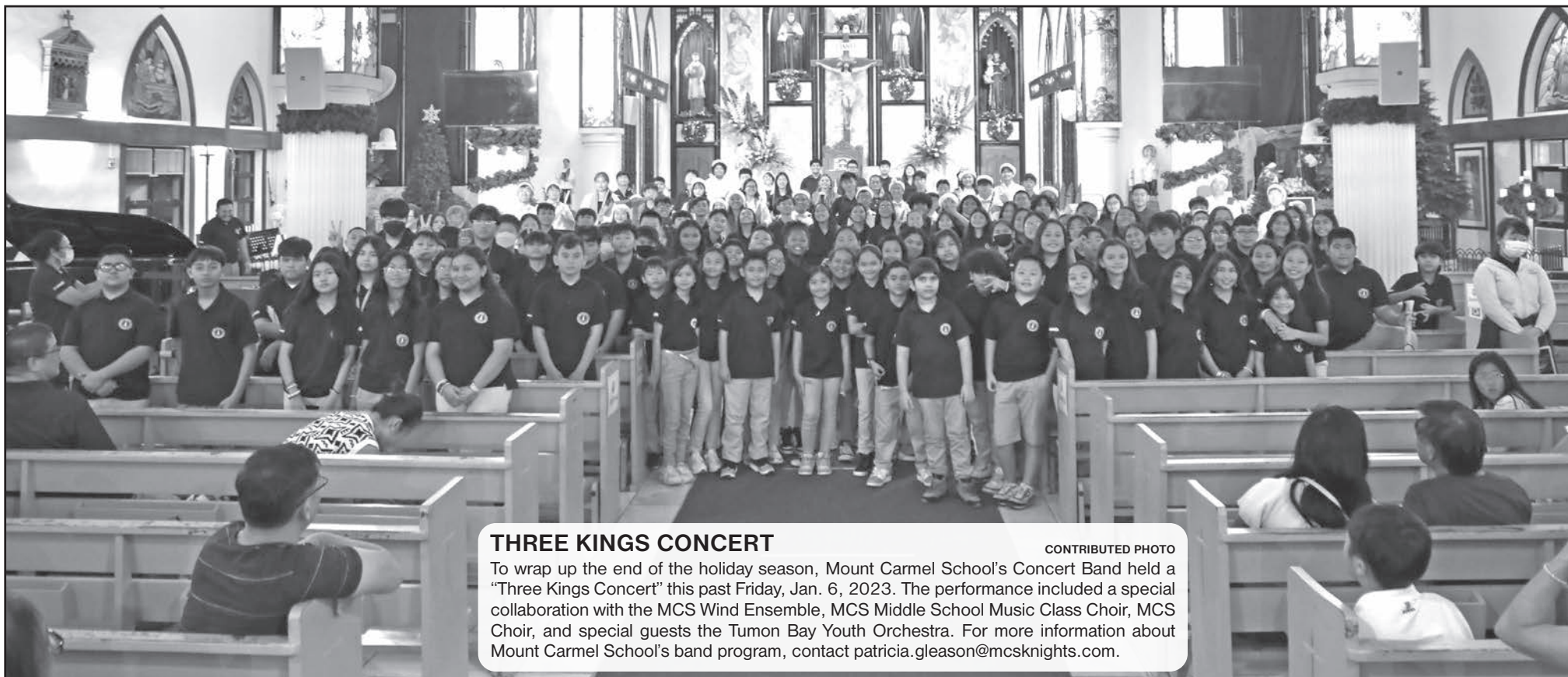
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 27, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



THREE KINGS CONCERT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To wrap up the end of the holiday season, Mount Carmel School's Concert Band held a "Three Kings Concert" this past Friday, Jan. 6, 2023. The performance included a special collaboration with the MCS Wind Ensemble, MCS Middle School Music Class Choir, MCS Choir, and special guests the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra. For more information about Mount Carmel School's band program, contact patricia.gleason@mcsknights.com.

McDonald's of Saipan awards Employee of the Year

McDonald's of Saipan presented two employees with Employee of the Year awards during its 2022 Annual Employee Appreciation Party last week, recognizing both Jay B. Achando and John Michael R. Navarro for their exceptional performances.

The award, which is given to those who exceeds in their attendance, performance, attitude, friendliness, initiative, and willingness to learn, entitles the winner to exclusive McDonald's merchandise, \$10 gift certificate to Regal Cinema, and over \$200!

Achando not only received this year's Employee of the Year award but also a five-year service award. Working grave-

yard shifts at McDonald's of Saipan in Garapan, his balance of work and family time and is admired by his managers for his punctuality and positive mindset. Working graveyard shifts allows him to take care of his children during the day without affecting his schedule. Knowing every station and position, he is an all-around employee working and helping anywhere in operation.

"Since the beginning, Jay shows his commitment to his work with a positive attitude, willingness to learn, and takes pride in every job well done. The managers and co-workers count on him in every situation when time gets tough and challenging in the restaurant.

Jay follows procedures and asks questions if new things come up," said Ruthzel Perez, the general manager of McDonald's of Saipan in Garapan.

"My kids motivate me to go to work every day. Everything I do is for them. I was very surprised to be awarded Employee of the Year, but I felt proud of myself for this achievement. I'd spend the money I received on my kids; they are always my first priority. I've learned quite a few things like opening up more to the people around me. I've made a lot of great friends in my workplace and I'm glad to have met them," said Achando.

Navarro, who is a working student, has been with McDonald's of Saipan in Chalan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, McDonald's of Guam and Saipan vice president Joe Ayuyu Jr., company owner and operator Marcia Erra Ayuyu, McDonald's Chalan Lau general manager Joyce Asistores, Employee of the Year awardee John Michael Navarro, Employee of the Year awardee Jay Achando, and McDonald's Garapan general manager Ruthzel Perez.

Lau Lau for only one year, but manages his time and excels in his studies and in work. His adaptability to be cross-trained in different stations and positions makes him an all-around employee.

"The managers and employees witnessed how he is very helpful to the team and how he supports others when needed. He serves every customer with a smile and does whatever it takes for customer satisfaction. With John

Michael around, things become easier, lighter and fun," said McDonald's Chalan Lau general manager Joyce Asistores.

"What motivates me work is the environment. If one of my coworkers is hyped up to work, I get myself hyped up to work. McDonald's has taught me the skills of every station: Beverage, Order Taker, Cashier, Grill, etc. and gave me the value of friendship. I was nervous during the Employee

of the Year announcement; I was shaking, but I will be [adding] the award money to my savings," said Navarro.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned by Jose & Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served their communities for over 50 years in Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the island's largest employers. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, Vincent Palacios Sablan, an immediate family member of Congressman John Paul Palacios Sablan, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Congressman John Paul Palacios Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Wednesday, January 25, 2023. Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 10th of January, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiñan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. NEW BUSINESS

- Contract – Legal Counsel
- Key Employee Personal History Disclosure
- Consulting Agreement – Amerine Gaming Enterprises

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION² V. ADJOURNMENT

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote in executive session at any time.

Register for GCC's free Construction Boot Camp IV

Guam Community College announces open registration for its upcoming Construction Boot Camp IV. This boot camp will last three months and start in February. It is also free to those who qualify.

Upon successful completion participants will earn their boot camp certificate with additional certifications in Work Keys, Work Ethic, OSHA-10, and Heartsavers/CPR/First-Aid. Black Construction will offer employment to partici-

pants successfully completing the boot camp.

Those interested are encouraged to log on to GuamCC.edu/CEWD and fill out the online interest form. The boot camp is limited to 20 participants. Those interested will have to meet certain requirements:

- Underemployed or Unemployed
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Must be 18+ years of age

■ Able to work in the United States

■ Must submit police and court clearances

For more information on this boot camp, contact GCC's Continuing Education and Workforce Development department at 671-735-5640 extension 5411, or email workforce@guamcc.edu. The CEWD office is located on campus in Building 2000, you may visit Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm. (PR)

Inauguration Day

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios takes his oath of office as the CNMI's 10th governor before CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning. Holding the Bible is first lady Wella Palacios.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members of the House of Representatives of the 23rd CNMI Legislature are sworn in yesterday at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

KIMBERLY ESMORES

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang takes his oath of office as the CNMI's 13th lieutenant governor before CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning. Holding the Bible is Apatang's daughter, Elaine Apatang-Butts.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Members of the CNMI's Color Guard prepare for the posting of colors at the inauguration ceremony for Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and U.S. District Court for Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco Gatewood chat with U.S. Attorney Shawn N. Andersen before the start of the inauguration ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



SAIPAN MAYORAL INAUGURATION

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, fourth from right, next to his wife, Delia Maratita Camacho, sings the national anthem along with Vicky Saures Fitial during his inauguration ceremony yesterday morning at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Oleai.

LEIGH GASES



Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, left, administers the oath of office to Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, middle, who is joined here by his wife, Delia Maratita Camacho, during the inauguration ceremony yesterday morning at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Oleai.

LEIGH GASES



NEW SENATORS

Members of the Senate of the 23rd CNMI Legislature have their picture taken after being sworn in yesterday at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

KIMBERLY ESMORES



NEW BOE MEMBER

Members of the CNMI's Board of Education's key management and Associate Justice Perry Inos pose with newly sworn-in Tinian Board of Education member Antonio Borja yesterday at the CNMI Board of Education's conference room on Capital Hill.

CHRYSTAL MARINO



Board of Education staff and S Associate Justice Perry Inos pose with newly sworn-in Tinian Board of Education member Antonio Borja yesterday at the CNMI Board of Education's conference room on Capital Hill.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

A dangerous dip in confidence

We live in an age of advanced scientific knowledge that produces vaccines that can ward off diseases such as measles, rubella, mumps and polio. We also live in an age when an increasing number of parents want the option of not vaccinating their children against these highly contagious and potentially fatal diseases.

Only 71% of people recently polled by the Kaiser Family Foundation believe that parents should be required to vaccinate their children to attend public schools, compared with 82% in 2019, the same as in 2016. This is akin to thinking that driving through a red light won't have any consequences.

The poll reflects a small but growing percentage of parents choosing not to vaccinate their kids against preventable childhood diseases driven by a surge in misinformation spread online through social media. And it's having a real effect on public health. A measles outbreak in Columbus, Ohio, in November sickened 82 children, most of them unvaccinated and younger than 5. None of them died, but 32 were hospitalized.

Public health officials traced the outbreak to public locations including a dollar store, a church and two department stores. Measles is highly contagious and can live in the air for two hours after an infected person leaves, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Measles was declared eliminated from the United States in 2000, about 40 years after the live measles vaccine was first licensed. But confidence in immunizations has been waning, and this is not the first outbreak of measles in the United States in recent years. The CDC reported 1,274 individual cases of measles in 31 states in 2019, by far the greatest number since 1992. Many of those cases were connected to an outbreak in late 2018 and early 2019 among New York City's Orthodox Jewish community, which had low vaccination rates.

All states have laws requiring children to be vaccinated against certain diseases such as measles to attend public schools; however, medical exemptions are allowed in certain circumstances. Some states, including Ohio, offer exemptions on medical, religious or moral grounds. Not surprisingly, an increasing number of parents or guardians in some regions of Ohio are increasingly filing moral or religious exemptions to the vaccine requirements, according to the Dayton Daily News.

In California, kids need to get vaccinated to attend public and private elementary and secondary schools, child-care centers, family day-care homes, nursery schools, day nurseries and pre-K facilities. Religious or personal belief exemptions were ended in California after a measles outbreak traced to Disneyland in 2014. The state law helped increase vaccination rates about 3% statewide, helping California almost reach herd immunity, which is when 95% of children receive both doses of their measles vaccines.

Distrust in vaccines is a global issue. So many kids are opting out of the measles vaccines that the public health officials now consider this preventable disease an imminent threat in every region of the world. Late in 2022, the World Health Organization reported the lowest global coverage vaccination

See **VACCINE** on Page 9

No, vaccines aren't making new COVID variants worse

A new COVID-19 variant called XBB.1.5 is driving a new wave of infections. But susceptibility to it is not, as some contend, being fueled by vaccines. Still, the surges of ever more immune-evasive variants raise legitimate questions about whether vaccines and boosters are still protecting us from infection, or should only be recommended for their ability to prevent severe disease and death.

Jeremy Luban, a virologist at the University of Massachusetts, says XBB.1.5 has made a massive leap above existing variants. He compares the other currently circulating variants to athletes slowly shaving off a hundredth of a second on the 100-meter dash. But XBB.1.5 is like Usain Bolt, suddenly smashing the old record by a huge margin.

That's one reason XBB.1.5 infection rates are shooting up fast. The other is timing: Winter is when past waves have surged, driven by weather and holiday gatherings.

How are vaccines affecting this trajectory? A Wall Street Journal column under the headline "Are Vaccines Fueling New Covid Variants?" makes the argument that XBB.1.5 started in one of the most heavily vaccinated parts of the world—the north-eastern U.S.

But the headline is misleading, because XBB.1.5 didn't acquire its immune-evasive power in the U.S. Rather, XBB.1.5 is the offspring of two previously circulating variants, called XBB and XBB.1, which probably arose somewhere in Asia, said Jesse Bloom, an evolutionary biologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle. The original XBB was the first variant known to have emerged through a process called recombination. Two versions of the omicron variant BA.2 must have infected the same person at the same time and swapped genetic material to produce something new.

Right off the bat, XBB was better at evading immunity from past infections or vaccines than any previous variant, according to several published studies. XBB.1.5 is not more immune-evasive than XBB, said Bloom, but developed a mutation that makes it more transmissible by better attaching to the ACE2 receptor on cells.

So, yes, vaccines do put evolutionary pressure on the virus and in that way steer its evolution. But it's misleading to suggest that vaccines are making our situation worse—without them, we'd still see immune-evading variants, and those infections would be causing more deaths.

While doom-and-despair stories may always get more reader attention, Roby Bhattacharyya, an assistant professor of medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, told me that despite being dubbed a "super variant" on Twitter, XBB.1.5 is unlikely to cause the sort of massive spike in cases, hospitalizations and deaths that the original omicron variant brought last winter.

The evidence is still being collected on the power of vaccines

By FAYE FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science. She is host of the Follow the Science podcast.



and the bivalent booster, which is formulated with a component aimed at a previous version of omicron. But he sees no reason to doubt that vaccine- or infection-induced immunity will help to some degree—and we have a lot more of it in our population than we did a year ago, as most of the unvaccinated among us have now been infected.

He's also skeptical of an alarming, unpublished study out of the Cleveland Clinic which has been making the rounds on Twitter and was cited in the WSJ piece, concluding that each booster actually increased the odds of getting infected.

That study followed 51,011 health care workers. Getting tested for COVID-19 was up to them, so the result might be explained by the fact that conscientious rule-following people are both more likely to get all their boosters and more likely to test frequently—and pick up mild or asymptomatic infections. Moreover, the study was done before XBB.1.5 entered the scene, so it doesn't apply directly to the current variant.

The main author of the study didn't respond to an interview request, but if there's a take-home message in it, it's that we really don't know how boosters are affecting the odds of getting a mild or asymptomatic illness and transmitting it.

It's highly unlikely vaccines are making people more susceptible to COVID-19. Bhattacharyya pointed to a study he led last year showing that vaccination probably didn't accelerate the initial omicron wave—omicron spread equally fast in highly vaccinated states as in poorly vaccinated states. (The big difference, other studies showed, is that more people died in states with low vaccination rates.)

What we need now are randomized, controlled trials of the benefits and risks of booster shots—studies that pit boosters against placebos and ask participants to be regularly tested. Bhattacharyya said he agrees that it's ethical to do this using volunteers at low risk of severe disease.

If we want policies that follow the science, then we need the right kinds of scientific studies. We don't need stories that scare people away from getting a booster that still has the potential to keep people out of the hospital and save lives.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A clarion call to right the ship of state

Editor's Note: The following is an advanced copy of the speech Gov. Arnold I. Palacios gave after his inauguration yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. It was provided to the media a day before the inauguration; note that Palacios may have made some changes in his final delivery.

Distinguished guests, fellow citizens, Lt. Gov. [David M.] Apatang, my wife, Wella, *especialmente i man-guaiyayon taotao* Marianas. We are here!

The underdogs are here! Fourteen months ago, when we declared our candidacy, we vowed to change the direction of our Commonwealth. And we did it without the financial resources and backing of a major party. We didn't have deep pockets.

Taya party. Taya salape. Taya BOOST. We are here. And we're here because of you.

We are here today to begin a transformation. A transformation mandated by our CNMI community. A transformation based on need for government officials and activities to be honest, open, and transparent. One that prioritizes the needs of our people and the needs of our Commonwealth.

We are here today because six weeks ago, the people of the CNMI spoke.

And with one resounding voice, our people said that we will no longer stand idly by and watch the abuse of our government.

That our public funds and our public offices are no longer yours to use to enrich yourselves.

We have just inherited a government that has been pillaged and plundered. We're not in a good situation fiscally. I wish that I didn't have to say any of this but this where we're at. As much as we want to paint you a rosy picture, we can't.

That's what part of transparency is.

Transparency is finding out what the heck happened to the \$480 million we received in [American Rescue Plan Act] funds a year and a half ago.

It's all gone.

How did we manage to do that in a community of 50,000 people?

Ma dispedisia todo I salape.

It's been four and a half years since Super Typhoon Yutu and we have yet to see a major infrastructure project.

What happened to our air traffic control tower? Where is our MRI machine?

What happened to our Hopwood Junior High School when [the Federal Emergency Management Agency gave us \$27 million for it?

While our sister territories like Guam and other jurisdictions set ARPA funds aside to develop their infrastructure and schools, we have ignored doing what's right to rebuild our islands and our community. We've unfortunately squandered the opportunity provided to us.

I am not trying to say anything you don't already know. I'm just reminding ourselves that this is where we're at.

The legacy of democracy

Exactly 45 years ago on these very grounds, our first governor, Carlos Camacho, was sworn into office, establishing the first constitutional government of the Commonwealth founded on the hopes for a better future in political union with the United States, expressed through the Covenant and our Constitution.

What our founders built is not perfect. It was not intended to be, but it is the enduring legacy of democracy and the principles of shared duties and responsibilities among three separate but equal branches of government that the founding fathers of our Commonwealth have bestowed on us.

The health of our Commonwealth is entrusted to our leaders and when that trust is broken, the freedoms guaranteed by our democracy allow us to express ourselves through our voices and our votes.

And that's what brought us here today. We are here because you have spoken and your voices were heard. Social media and its influence on public opinion have given people a sense of their own independence of mind and courage to speak up, be heard, and take a firm stand on principles.

Priorities

What motivated people to the polls in November is fiscal accountability and the growing evidence of the squandering and swindling of tax dollars. With disaster recovery efforts incomplete and the aftermath of the global pandemic still taking an unimaginable toll on our economy and our lives, the alarm went out for the need to rein in excesses in government spending and to use public money wisely.

When left unchecked, arrogant use of power never amounts to any good. The people saw through the attempts to hide what greed and corruption had sown. The flagrant misuse of public funds in the BOOST program gives just a glimpse of the scale of malfeasance.

In the past three weeks, our transition teams have worked with the Department of Finance, Office of Grants Management, and the Infrastructure and Recovery Program and I am dismayed by the state of our fiscal health and the potential consequences for the Commonwealth.

Fiscal stability

To get ourselves back to fiscal stability we must do so by exercising fiscal discipline. Leading by example is not a problem for me and Dave. I am known for my frugal ways with the public purse. No luxury travel on first class paid by government funding, no extravagant expenses for fixtures or unnecessary use of public services and resources for personal and leisure time. The time to live within our means has come.

I will work closely with the Legislature to push through initiatives to stabilize the fiscal health our government. And I will review the past use of public funds to find out what happened to the \$480 million we received in ARPA funds a year and a half ago...because it's all gone. Together with the assistance of the Attorney General we will pursue the option of recoupment from those individuals and companies who have made out like bandits.

Public safety

The Department of Public Safety requires a major overhaul. A commissioner will be appointed who has extensive law enforcement experience. I will emphasize training of police officers, upgrade investigative facilities, and re-establish the cooperation we once had with our federal agencies. I will ensure that our essential, frontline workers are taken care of and treated fairly.

Education

We will get back on track with our disaster rebuilding projects, especially for our schools at [the Public School System] and [Northern Marianas College]. Our children and educational systems have borne the brunt of our natural disasters and the pandemic. In the next 100 days, we will bring you a plan to get Hopwood back on track to be rebuilt.

They deserve way better than the Yutu temporary tents that are still being used four years later. The Board of Education and PSS and the Board of Regents must account for the delay. Seriously, we have to do better. We owe that to our children and to the future of the Commonwealth.

I will hold the feet of the responsible autonomous agencies to the fire to ensure they stay in compliance with deadlines for the use of federal funds. We will strive to construct the new school buildings as our federal partners have trusted to do.

Reorganization

Let's take stock of what size of government we really need. [ARPA] was not designed to balloon the size of government and

information and the politicization of COVID-19 vaccine mandates have fueled this trend. Most opponents of public school vaccine mandates identify as Republican, according to the KFF poll. The percentage of Republicans who believe that parents should be able to opt out of required school vaccines more than doubled from 20% in 2019 to 44% in 2022.

By trusting social media influencers pushing misinformation over the advice of pediatricians and public health experts, parents are leaving children exposed to measles infections that bring

By ARNOLD I. PALACIOS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Arnold I. Palacios is the 10th governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



fund extravagant projects.

We forgot that our existing workforce should be trained and retooled with an upgraded set of skills to keep the daily operations of offices running efficiently and effectively.

I must and will do my part. I will appoint experienced administrators to run departments and will hold them accountable to the duties and responsibilities that they must carry out. I will work closely with the Civil Service Commission to better train our workers.

Final thoughts

Yes, it will take time to put our government in order and fix our public schools. It will take time to fix our roads, sewer and water system. It will take time to build capacity. And they will take time because the solution lies in public officials who are dedicated to transparency, accountability, and the strict adherence to the rule of law.

Dave and I are longstanding career government employees. We are public servants. We take pride in the work and things that we've done in the name of public service and the public interest. While we should be sitting back and enjoying retirement for a second time, what we saw more than a year ago motivated us to reconsider. The Commonwealth was facing a moment of crisis and in need of credible leadership. The people deserved better.

By taking the oath of office today, we re-commit ourselves to another term of public service and to lead the Commonwealth through this moment of crisis. Make no mistake: We are all in. We are all in to rebuild trust, restore confidence, return integrity and credibility to government.

For the task before us, there are no easy answers and no quick fixes. Just plain hard work and sacrifice. We are aware and prepared to work harder than we have worked before; to make sacrifices on a scale like never before, to right the sail and navigate toward a better future for the Commonwealth. In doing so we will be honest about what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what we hope to achieve.

This is where we are today.

Our Commonwealth needs members of our community to come together to face the challenges and to right this ship, now more than ever.

It's going to be a long and difficult fight, and we start this fight today.

We start this together with the true strength of our Commonwealth. We start with our people.

It's going to be a difficult road.

In the end, we're going to live in a Commonwealth we're proud of.

We'll fight corruption in all its forms. And we intend to prevail. And we won't quit. And we won't fail.

And we won't stop fighting for the future of our people and the future of our islands. We need you, Rota! We need you, Tinian! We need you, Saipan! We need you, Northern Islands! We are nothing without you! We are nothing without each other.

Because in the end, we're all we've got. And we're all we need! Let's stand side-by-side! Let's fight together! Let's fight for our people! Let's fight for our Commonwealth!

And with the guidance of the Lord...*Biba* Marianas!

VACCINE






From page 8

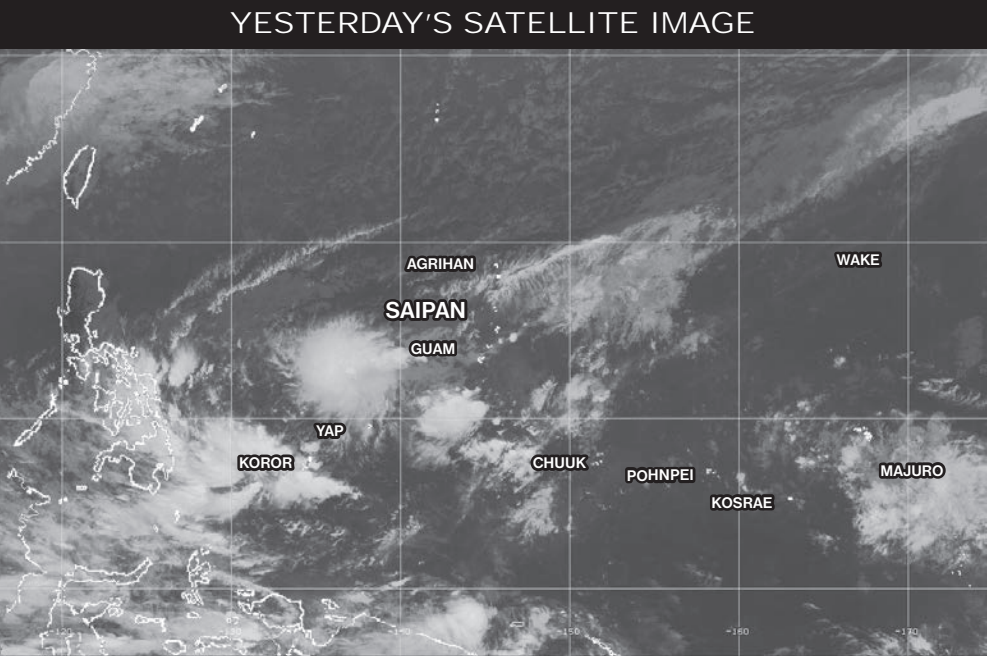
rate for measles, with only 71% of children worldwide receiving a full two doses of vaccines against measles.

Hesitancy about the safety and need for immunizations to combat childhood diseases was growing in the U.S. even before the COVID-19 pandemic. But public health experts believe mis-

rash, fever, coughing, inflamed eyes, sore throat and, potentially, swelling of the brain, long-term disabilities and death. Expect even more measles outbreaks in the U.S. and elsewhere unless vaccine coverage improves. That means states must follow California's lead and crack down on nonmedical exemptions so that misinformed parents don't have the option to put their kids, and other people's kids, at risk.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		Showers likely. Cloudy		Showers likely. Cloudy		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
81°	76°	81°	76°	80°	75°	80°	75°	84°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 9:11 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers between Rota and Tinian, with isolated showers throughout the rest of the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 9 feet, composed of a north swell of 5 to 7 feet and an east swell of 3 feet, plus wind waves from the northeast to east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:05 AM	8:46 PM
Wednesday	-	9:42 AM	9:34 PM
Thursday	-	10:18 AM	10:22 PM
Friday	-	10:52 AM	11:09 PM
Saturday	-	11:27 AM	11:58 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	42° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Showers	67° / 63°	
Honolulu	Sunny	80° / 66°	
London	Rain	56° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Rain	58° / 56°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	75° / 58°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
New York	Cloudy	46° / 34°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	47° / 32°	
Paris	Light Rain	52° / 50°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	53° / 38°	
Rome	Sunny	57° / 35°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	58° / 34°	
San Francisco	Rain/Wind	58° / 50°	
Seoul	Sunny	44° / 22°	
Tokyo	Sunny	49° / 34°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:40 AM	Low Tide	-0.38	
10:52 AM	High Tide	1.58	
4:16 PM	Low Tide	1.04	
8:49 PM	High Tide	1.53	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3, 6 via Incheon	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Take a dive into Bada Art Café

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

You can now have your cake and eat it too as you create art while sipping on delicious refreshments and eating desserts when you dive into what may be the only art café in the CNMI—the ocean-themed Bada Art Café.

Whether you need a new date spot, want to get your creative juices flowing, or are on the hunt for new drinks and desserts, the art café should be next on your list.

The art café is a family owned small business opened in October 2022 along the Beach Road pathway right across the Saipan Mayor's Office and before the Kilili Beach Park. Manager Sarah Lee is originally from South Korea and a Saipan resident of 10 years, while her sister, Kara is the art instructor.

With the shores of Oleai beach right in their backyard, along with the ocean-themed art, decor, and their ocean-themed drink, Ocean Blue Ade, you are sure to feel like you are outdoors on a sunny beach day without actually being outside—and rightfully so, as bada means ocean in Korean.

If you do want to feel the breeze in your hair and smell the salt of the ocean, there is an outdoor barbecue party



Bada Art Café is located adjacent to the Beach Road Pathway in Oleai, across the Saipan Mayor's Office, and right before the Kilili Pavilion.

space for rent.

For those who book an art class such as painting or DIY scented candle making, the café provides all of the art supplies and serves complimentary coffee and light refreshments.

If you're just there for the café, the must try with their Ocean Blue Ade drink is the croffle with ice cream—a hybrid of a croissant and waffle, which is a popular Korean dessert. They also serve different flavors of hot or iced coffee.

You can also see the underwater world that you can only visit via their virtual reality set readily available. Dive in and take a tour of the ocean's depths

without getting your feet wet as you wait for your ocean-scented candle to dry, or try it out for \$5 per 10 minutes.

"We work with all age groups from young as 6 years old to adults. Even grandma and grandpa can come and enjoy the Made in Saipan art products like scented ocean candles, painting, and other art and crafts," said Sarah about their art café.

"Customers have the opportunity to express their creativity. Also, we work on any kind of art related projects like website design and logo design. We are diversified with many different ethnicities. Many of our students and participants join our

art classes with different backgrounds and talents. That makes it special and fun!"

Sarah looks forward to working with the local and tourist youth who want to learn the arts, while her plans in the future include working with organizations within the community such as the man'amko or schools, where they can teach a class that "can promote healing minds and spirits through the art program."

"My sister and I are extremely grateful and happy to continue developing our fragile economy as a small business," said Sarah on their journey so far. She recalled how badly damaged the building was after Super Typhoon Yutu and all the challenges they overcame, but she thanked her friends for the strength and vision to finish. "There were many challenges but I was determined to finish and get it done and now here we



Must try in their café menu is the Ocean Blue Ade, left, and their croffle and ice cream dessert which is a combination of a croissant and waffle. They also serve a variety of hot/iced coffee, middle, and Hibiscus Ade, right.



Seen here are DIY scented candles created in the art café. Book an art class now to learn how to create these stunningly beautiful candles and take a piece of the Marianas with you.

'The money is gone': Bahamas tries to turn page after FTX

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Dressed in a canary blue suit on a warm December night, sweat dripping from his brow, Bishop Lawrence Rolle belts out the lyrics to his latest hit song for the hundreds of children and adults gathered to celebrate Christmas.

"FTX1," he sings, bent over and shaking his head for emphasis. "The money is gone!"

"FTX1," his backup singer and audience scream back. "The money have done gone!"

The cryptocurrency exchange FTX was supposed to be the crown jewel of the Bahamian government's push to be the global destination for all things crypto, after years of having an economy overly reliant on tourism and banking. Instead, FTX is bankrupt and Bahamians are trying to figure out what's next for their country and whether their national crypto experiment has failed. Regulators are trying to locate FTX's customers' missing money.

Meanwhile, charities like Rolle's and dozens of contractors now out of work hope that another company will come along and bring new opportunities to the island nation, without

the complications and embarrassment of an alleged billion-dollar fraud.

Rolle, a Pentecostal preacher known as the "singing bishop," is a prominent figure in the Bahamas. For decades, he's cooked and donated food to the poor and provided school lunches from his neighborhood kitchen at International Deliverance Praying Ministry in Over-The-Hill, one of the most impoverished parts of the capital of Nassau. Rolle and his staff feed roughly 2,500 people a week.

Rolle had been invited by Kirby Samuel, the principal of Mt. Carmel Preparatory Academy, to sing as part of the school's Christmas celebration. His act consisted mostly of a half dozen Afro-Caribbean gospel songs, but one number stood out—his social media hit about the recent collapse of FTX.

Rolle's ministry received \$50,000 from FTX in early 2022, one of several donations FTX made to the Bahamian people when it relocated to the Caribbean island nation in 2021. It was money, he said, that was used to restore a food storage trailer and make additional food

donations. Rolle said it cost upward of \$10,000 a week to run his food donation program.

Asked about the failure of FTX, Rolle described it as a sad distraction from the many issues facing the country. Others are angry, particularly with Sam Bankman-Fried, the young founder of FTX. The Bahamas had a reputation, like some other Caribbean isles, as a destination for illicit and offshore finance. There was a belief that crypto would allow the island to diversify its economy, give Bahamians more financial opportunities and overall help provide the country a more prosperous future.

The country enacted the Digital Assets and Registered Exchanges Act in 2020, making the Bahamas one of the first countries to put together a regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies and other digital assets. The prime minister, Philip Davis, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for FTX's new \$60 million headquarters in Nassau in April, along with Bankman-Fried.

"Their arrival was sort of the culmination of the work the Ba-

Musk says he can't get fair trial in California, wants Texas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Elon Musk has urged a federal judge to shift a trial in a shareholder lawsuit out of San Francisco because he says negative local media coverage has biased potential jurors against him.

Instead, in a filing submitted late Friday—less than two weeks before the trial was set to begin on Jan. 17—Musk's lawyers argue it should be moved to the federal court in the western district of Texas. That district includes the state capital of Austin, which is where Musk relocated his electric car company, Tesla, in late 2021.

The shareholder lawsuit stems from Musk's tweets in August 2018 when he said he had sufficient financing to take Tesla private at \$420 a share—an announcement that caused heavy volatility in Tesla's share price.

are as Bada Art Café."

As an ocean lover who took to freediving and scuba diving, Sarah hopes that those who leave the art café can take with them a piece of the Marianas through their handmade candles, paintings, or any other arts and crafts made within the art café.

"I always wanted to serve the community well for our precious warm nice local residents—and tourists too. I would

love to see people hang out at Bada Art Café and enjoy the ocean and natural surroundings. Tourists and locals can make their own handmade scented ocean candles, reminiscent of the Marianas' beautiful ocean."

The cafe is open daily from 9am to 5pm while their art class schedule is flexible.

Follow them on their Instagram @ohbadasaipan or contact (670) 287-8456 for questions or to book an art class.

tion is meritless."

"The Northern District of California is the proper venue for this lawsuit and where it has been actively litigated for over four years," attorney Nicholas Porritt wrote in an email.

The filing by Musk's attorneys also notes that Twitter has laid off about 1,000 residents in the San Francisco area since he purchased the company in late October.

"A substantial portion of the jury pool ... is likely to hold a personal and material bias against Mr. Musk as a result of recent layoffs at one of his companies as individual prospective jurors—or their friends and relatives—may have been personally impacted," the filing said.

Musk has also been criticized by San Francisco's mayor and other local officials for the job cuts, the filing said.

Nation

McCarthy's next big task: Win GOP support for House rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—After an epic 15-ballot election to become House speaker, Republican Kevin McCarthy faces his next big test in governing a fractious, slim majority: passing a rules package to govern the House.

The drafting and approval of a set of rules is normally a fairly routine legislative affair, but in these times, it's the next showdown for the embattled McCarthy.

To become speaker and win over skeptics, McCarthy had to make concessions to a small group of hard-liners who refused to support his ascension until he yielded to their demands.

Now those promises — or at least some of them — are being put into writing to be voted on when lawmakers return this week for their first votes as the majority party.

On Sunday, at least two moderate Republicans expressed their reservations about supporting the rules package, citing what they described as secret deals and the disproportionate power potentially being handed out to a group of 20 conservatives.

The concessions included limits on McCarthy's power, such as by allowing a single lawmaker to initiate a vote to remove him as speaker and curtailing government spending, which could include defense cuts. They also give the conservative Freedom Caucus more seats on the committee that decides which legislation reaches the House floor.

They also raise questions



AP
Incoming House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Calif., receives the gavel from House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of N.Y., on the House floor at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, early Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023.

McCarthy made and said he believes the rules package will get enough Republican support to pass. He insisted that the agreements will help ensure broader representation on committees and will curtail unfettered government spending.

"We'll see tomorrow," he said Sunday, but "I think we'll get the 218 votes needed to pass the rules package."

In the coming months, Congress will have to work to raise the debt limit before the government reaches its borrowing cap or face a devastating default on payments, including those for Social Security, military troops and federal benefits such as food assistance. Lawmakers will also have to fund federal agencies and programs for the next budget year, which begins Oct. 1.

about whether McCarthy can garner enough support from Republicans, who hold a 222-212 edge, on a critical vote in the coming months to raise the debt limit, given conservatives' demand that there also be significant spending cuts, over opposition from the White House and a Democratic-controlled Senate.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., a strong McCarthy supporter, said she currently is "on the fence" about the proposed rules.

"I like the rules package," Mace said, in reference to what has been released publicly.

"What I don't support is a small number of people trying to get a deal done or deals done for themselves in private, in secret."

She said it will be hard to get anything done in the House if a small band is given a stronger hand compared with the larger number of moderates. "I am concerned that commonsense legislation will not get through to get a vote on the floor," she said.

Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-Texas, was an outright "no" against the rules package, decrying an "insurgency caucus" that he said would cut defense spending and push extremist legisla-

tion, such as on immigration.

Democrats are expected to be united against the package.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a

member of the Freedom Caucus who is expected to lead the House Judiciary Committee, defended the concessions

ACROSS THE NATION

Teacher shot by 6-year-old known as devoted to students

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The Virginia teacher who authorities say was shot by a 6-year-old student is known as a hard-working educator who is devoted to her students and enthusiastic about the profession that runs in her family, according to fellow teachers and city officials.

John Eley III, a former member of the Newport News School Board, identified the first-grade teacher as Abby Zwerner, 25. Zwerner was shot Friday at Richneck Elementary School, authorities said.

Shortly after the shooting, police said Zwerner had life-threatening injuries, but she has improved and was listed in stable condition at a local hospital.

Eley and other city officials met with teachers and the principal at the school Friday and later went to the hospital, where they met with members of Zwerner's family, including several aunts who also are teachers.

"The family was all educators and said she was excited about doing the job," said Eley, who was recently elected to the Newport News City Council.

"The custodians and other teachers spoke about how she's a good teammate, she's a team player, she loves her children, she's just an all-around good teacher."

Two dead after 15-vehicle pileup on icy I-80 in Iowa Sunday

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—Two people are dead and several others are injured after a 15-vehicle pileup in icy conditions on Interstate 80 near Iowa City Sunday.

The Iowa State Patrol said the crash happened after several drivers lost control on the icy highway and collided around 5:45 a.m. Nine of the vehicles involved in the crash were semitrailer trucks.

Westbound lanes of Interstate 80 were closed

for more than eight hours after the crash. Two of the three lanes reopened by 2 p.m.

"This crash demonstrates the importance of all drivers paying attention, every single minute, to road conditions and potential hazards ahead!" Iowa State Trooper Bob Conrad said in a statement. "Two families now have to adapt and accept a loved one never returning home! These types of crashes can be avoided!"

Idaho hot pool roof fall sends 7 to hospitals, cause unknown

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—A roof collapsed on bathers at an Idaho hot spring, sending seven people to hospitals with a variety of injuries.

The injured ranged in age from 9 to 70. All were conscious and in stable condition when taken for further medical care after the collapse Saturday afternoon at Givens Hot Springs, the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Witnesses said 15 to 20 people were in the pool when pieces of wood began falling in the water, KTVB-7 reported.

"I saw the first piece of wood come down from the ceiling. I heard it snap and then the whole thing caved in," Lee Wilson said. "I got hit and knocked out and I went under the water. A firefighter saved me, and my nephew pulled me out. But it was scary."

Wilson suffered a concussion but was released from the hospital Saturday, he said.

Nicole Caffrey said she took her 2-year-old daughter into a changing room and heard the collapse soon after.

"It literally felt like an earthquake just right behind my back," Caffrey said.

What caused the roof collapse at the privately owned pool 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Boise was unknown. There was no snow accumulation in the area, the sheriff's statement said.

Biden inspects US-Mexico border in face of GOP criticism

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—President Joe Biden walked a muddy stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border and inspected a busy port of entry Sunday on his first trip to the region after two years in office, a visit shadowed by the fraught politics of immigration as Republicans blame him for record numbers of migrants crossing into the country.

At his first stop, the president observed as border officers in El Paso demonstrated how they search vehicles for drugs, money and other contraband. Next, he traveled to a dusty street with abandoned buildings and walked along a metal border fence that separated the U.S. city from Ciudad Juarez.

His last stop was the El Paso County Migrant Services Center — but there were no migrants in sight. As he learned about the services of-

fered there, he asked an aid worker, "If I could wave the wand, what should I do?" The answer was not audible.

Biden's nearly four-hour visit to El Paso was highly controlled. He encountered no migrants except when his motorcade drove alongside the border and about a dozen were visible on the Ciudad Juárez side. His visit did not include time at a Border Patrol station, where migrants who cross illegally are arrested and held before their release. He delivered no public remarks.

The visit seemed designed to showcase a smooth operation to process legal migrants, weed out smuggled contraband and humanely treat those who have entered illegally, creating a counter-narrative to Republicans' claims of a crisis situation equivalent to an open border.

But his visit was likely do

little to quell critics from both sides, including immigrant advocates who accuse him of establishing cruel policies not unlike those of his hard-line predecessor, Donald Trump.

In a sign of the deep tensions over immigration, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, handed Biden a letter as soon as he touched down in the state that said the "chaos" at the border was a "direct result" of the president's failure to enforce federal laws. Biden later took the letter out of his jacket pocket during his tour, telling reporters, "I haven't read it yet."

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy dismissed Biden's visit as a "photo op," saying on Twitter that the Republican majority would hold the administration "accountable for creating the most dangerous border crisis in American history."

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

China holds large-scale joint strike drills aimed at Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The Chinese military held large-scale joint combat strike drills starting Sunday, sending war planes and navy vessels toward Taiwan, both the Chinese and Taiwanese defense ministries said.

The exercises coincided with the visit of a group of German lawmakers who landed in Taiwan on Monday morning. Leading the delegation is the Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, who leads the German Parliament's Defense Committee.

The exercises have continued into Monday, Taiwan's defense ministry said, monitoring Chinese warplanes and navy vessels on its missile systems.

China's actions "have severely disrupted the peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits and surrounding waters," the ministry said.

The German lawmakers will meet with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, as well as Taiwan's National Security Council head and the Mainland Affairs Council, which handles issues related to China.

China has stepped up its pressure on Taiwan's military in recent years by sending warplanes or navy vessels on an almost-daily basis toward the self-ruled island. China claims sovereignty over the island, which split from the mainland in 1949 after a civil war.

Over the course of 24 hours between 6 a.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Monday morning, China's People's Liberation Army flew 57 warplanes and four ships toward Taiwan, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said in a statement Monday morning. Twenty-eight of those planes crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary that both sides had previously stood by.

Seoul: Kim's daughter reveal hints at prolonged family rule

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's disclosure of his daughter in recent public events was likely an attempt to show his people that one of his children would one day inherit his power in what would be the country's third hereditary power transfer, South Korea's spy service told lawmakers Thursday.

Kim publicly took his daughter to three events in the past few months: a missile launch site, a photo session with weapons sci-

entists and a touring of a missile facility. State news media called her Kim's "most beloved child," sparking outside debate over whether she's being groomed as his heir apparent, though she's believed to be around 9 or 10 years old.

In a closed-door Parliamentary committee meeting, the National Intelligence Service said it believes that by taking his daughter to public places, Kim aims to show North Koreans his resolve to hold another round of hereditary power transition, Yoo Sang-bum, one of the lawmakers who attended the private NIS briefing, told reporters.

But the NIS said Ju Ae's public appearance — the first for any of Kim's children — doesn't necessarily mean that she herself will succeed Kim, Yoo added.

South Korean news outlets have reported that Kim has three children — born in 2010, 2013 and 2017 — and that the first child is a son while the third is a daughter.

Aid chief: Taliban decrees against women paralyzing NGO work

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban's "internal debates and extreme decrees" are paralyzing humanitarian work in Afghanistan, the head of a major aid agency told The Associated Press on Sunday, after he arrived on a week-long trip to talk to Taliban leaders about reversing a ban on women working for national and international non-governmental groups.

Jan Egeland, the secretary-general of the Norwegian Refugee Council, is the first NGO chief to visit Afghanistan for talks with the Taliban since the ban came into effect more than two weeks ago.

Authorities have barred Afghan women from working at NGOs, allegedly because they weren't wearing the Islamic headscarf correctly. The ban follows a slew of moves that have severely limited or suspended women's rights and education.

Aid groups, foreign governments, and the United Nations say women are vital for the delivery of lifesaving assistance in Afghanistan and are calling for the ban's reversal. Many groups have suspended their operations, warning of dire and deadly consequences for a population already battered by decades of war, deteriorating living conditions and economic hardship.

The Norwegian Refugee Council says it has worked in Afghanistan since 2003 and employs 470 women. It helped more than 840,000

people last year and was intending to help 700,000 this year, the group said.

Egeland said that he was meeting Taliban leaders in the capital of Kabul and in the southern city of Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban movement and the base of the group's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Egeland has already met the economy minister, who initially announced the ban, and other Taliban officials. Egeland indicated that those in Kabul were more willing to contemplate women returning to work because of their crucial role in delivering humanitarian aid.

Over 150 Rohingya refugees reach ashore in Indonesia

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—More than 100 weak and hungry Rohingya Muslim refugees were among the latest group to reach ashore in Indonesia on Sunday after a long and dangerous journey aboard a wooden boat.

The group of 184 people, including a pregnant woman and children, landed at the Kuala Gigieng beach in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh, which has already received more than 500 Rohingya last year. The refugees say they're seeking a better life than in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh, where they fled military persecution across the border in Myanmar.

"In Bangladesh, there are no opportunities for Rohingya refugees. So we come here to Indonesia," said Faisal, one of the refugees who uses only one name.

Fahmi Irwan Ramli, Banda Aceh city police chief, said the refugees appeared generally in good condition, but there was a pregnant woman and four were sick and being treated by doctors.

The U.N. refugee agency said it will determine their status in coordination with Indonesia's government.

Fishermen on Saturday reported seeing three boats suspected to be carrying refugees, but only one landed on Sunday. The United Nations reported that 26 refugees died last month of dehydration and exhaustion after weeks at sea.

More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh since August 2017. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and burning thousands of Rohingya homes.

World

Brazil authorities will seek to punish pro-Bolsonaro rioters



Protesters, supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro, storm the National Congress building in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. AP

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazilian authorities were picking up pieces and investigating Monday after thousands of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro's supporters stormed Congress, the Supreme Court and presidential palace then trashed the nation's highest seats of power.

The protesters were seeking military intervention to either restore the far-right Bolsonaro to power or oust the newly inaugurated leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in scenes of chaos and destruction reminiscent of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Rioters donning the green

and yellow of the national flag on Sunday broke windows, toppled furniture, hurled computers and printers to the ground. They punctured a massive Emilianio Di Cavalcanti painting in five places, overturned the U-shaped table at which Supreme Court justices convene, ripped a door off one justice's office and vandalized an iconic statue outside the court. The monumental buildings' interiors were left in states of ruin.

In a news conference late Sunday, Brazil's minister of institutional relations said the buildings would be inspected for evidence includ-

ing fingerprints and images to hold people to account, and that the rioters apparently intended to spark similar such actions nationwide. Justice Minister Flávio Dino said the acts amounted to terrorism and coup-mongering and that authorities have begun tracking those who paid for the buses that transported protesters to the capital.

"They will not succeed in destroying Brazilian democracy. We need to say that fully, with all firmness and conviction," Dino said. "We will not accept the path of criminality to carry out political fights in Brazil. A criminal is treated like a criminal."

Russia claims deadly attack, but Kyiv denies anyone killed

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The Russian military claimed Sunday to have carried out deadly missile strikes on barracks used by Ukrainian troops in retaliation for the deaths of dozens of Russian soldiers in a rocket attack a week ago. Ukrainian officials denied there were any casualties.

The Russian Defense Ministry said its missiles hit two temporary bases housing 1,300 Ukrainian troops in Kramatorsk, in the eastern Donetsk region, killing 600 of them. Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the strikes were retaliation for Ukraine's attack in Makiivka, in which at least 89 Russian soldiers died.

Serhii Cherevatyi, a spokesperson for Ukraine's forces in the east, told The Associated Press that Russian strikes on Kramatorsk damaged only civilian infrastructure, adding:

"The armed forces of Ukraine weren't affected."

The Donetsk regional administration said seven Russian missiles hit Kramatorsk and two more hit Kostyantynivka, without causing any casualties. It said an educational institution, an industrial facility and garages were damaged in Kramatorsk, and an industrial zone was hit in Kostyantynivka.

Kramatorsk Mayor Oleksandr Honcharenko said two school buildings and eight apartment houses were hit overnight. Photos he posted showed no indication that it had been an attack on the scale claimed by the Russians or that anyone had been in the buildings when they were struck.

"The world saw again these days that Russia lies even when it draws attention to the situation at the front with its own statements," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelen-

sky said in his nightly video address.

"Russian shelling of Kher-son with incendiary ammunition right after Christmas. The strikes on Kramatorsk and other cities of the Donbas — aimed right at civilian sites and right when Moscow was reporting the supposed 'silence' of its army."

Russia had declared a 36-hour cease-fire timed to coincide with Orthodox Christmas celebrations on Saturday. Ukraine denounced the pause as a ploy.

Russia said the attack on Kramatorsk was in retaliation for the Ukrainian rockets that destroyed a facility in Makiivka, also in the eastern Donetsk region, where Russian soldiers were gathered in the early hours of Jan. 1. It was one of the deadliest attacks on the Kremlin's forces since the war began more than 10 months ago.

Overdrive

2023 Genesis G90: a first-class interpretation of first-class mobility

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

It's been a long time since Hyundai introduced the 1999 Equus, its first rendition of a world-class luxury car. It would take another decade, and a couple of generations, before the vehicle reached the U.S. and another seven years until Hyundai launched its new luxury brand, Genesis, with the former Equus becoming its flagship sedan, the G90.

For 2023, Genesis is launching an all-new G90, and it's truly a first-class interpretation of first-class mobility. Intended to compete with the Lexus LS, BMW 7 Series, Audi A8 and Mercedes-Benz S-Class in this exclusive sector of the luxury car market, the 2023 G90 is the first Hyundai luxury model that truly competes fender to fender with the world's finest sedans.

While the 2023 Genesis G90's distinctive appearance enhances and further distills the design cues from the previous G90, it now has a more significant air due to its lengthy 125.2-inch wheelbase. Its exquisite lines are enhanced by the front end's dual horizontal lighting theme and a more refined, yet still unmistakable, shield grille. It has a mature presence overall, which is a welcome break from the frivolous excesses that characterize modern car design.

The accommodations are what matter when it comes to large luxury cars, and once inside the G90's cabin, you'll be spoiled senseless. As on Rolls-



KELLY SERFOSS/GENESIS

The 2023 Genesis G90 is powered by a 3.5-liter double-overhead-cam twin turbocharged V6 and an eight-speed automatic transmission that generates 375 horsepower and 391 pound-feet of torque. (Kelly Serfoss/Genesis/TNS)

Royce vehicles, the doors shut with the press of a button. Look around and you'll find a steering wheel with a distinctively sculpted 3-D appearance. Not surprisingly, the interior is richly decorated with a chic combination of leather, wood and other materials, but its appearance lacks the flashiness of its German competition. Instead, there's a knowing, sophisticated calm to its design.

As you'd expect, there is ample head and leg room, and the chairs are wide and comfy. Both the seat back and the seat bottom have massagers, ensuring that your glutes are massaged as well as your

aching back. Thanks to active noise cancellation, you'll soon discover that the G90 is quieter than a college library on a Saturday night once underway. There's even an onboard aroma diffuser, a thoughtful touch nicked from Mercedes-Benz.

The instrument panel is comprised of a pair of 12.3-inch screens behind a single sheet of glass, one a digital instrument cluster and the other a 12.3-inch high-def multimedia screen. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard, as is an exceptional Bang & Olufsen sound system. There're also front and rear wireless smartphone chargers, a head-up display, and a fin-

gerprint authentication system that can be used to start the car without the key fob.

The all-wheel-drive G90 sedan is powered by a 3.5-liter double-overhead-cam twin turbocharged V-6 and an 8-speed automatic transmission that generates 375 horsepower and 391 pound-feet of torque. It carries an EPA rating of 18 mpg city, 26 mpg highway and 21 mpg combined. But whereas last year Genesis offered a V-8 engine as a performance upgrade, for 2023 it's been replaced by the base V-6 engine augmented with an electric supercharger and powered by a 48-volt mild hybrid system. With 409 horse-

power and 405 pound-feet of torque, fuel economy suffers, but not much, coming in at 17 mpg city, 24 mpg highway and 20 mpg combined.

Genesis is acutely attuned to what's expected of the G90 by eschewing any boy racer Nürburgring tendencies. Instead, it uses its front camera to take stock of the road ahead and adjust the air-dampened suspension accordingly to ensure a relaxing ride. Thankfully, this is not a sports sedan, nor does it aspire to be one. Even so, acceleration is ample while remaining well-composed when cornering — a remarkable and rare combination of traits. But Genesis engineers

also provide a chauffeur driving mode that optimizes the G90's ride to prioritize rear seat passenger comfort.

Its personality is at once modern and cutting edge, yet reassuringly traditional with its urge to indulge, delight and pamper. The 2023 Genesis G90 is the true essence of lavish luxury motoring.

Of course, this won't matter to some, as the Genesis brand has yet to achieve true luxury brand cachet despite its excellent vehicles. And luxury label cachet is as much the essence of luxury as what the brand actually delivers. But after experiencing the new G90, such status doesn't seem to matter, as Genesis' newest flagship sedan continues to deliver exceptional pampering at a price that undercuts its competitors.

And in era of raging inflation, that's something even the wealthiest car buyer can appreciate.

NUTS & BOLTS

- 2023 Genesis G90 3.5T
- Base price: \$98,700
- Engine: 3.5-liter twin turbocharged V6
- Horsepower/Torque: 409/405 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 17/24 mpg
- Fuel required: 92 Octane
- Length/Width/Height: 207.7/76/58.7 inches
- Ground clearance: 5.8 inches
- Payload: 1,003 pounds
- Cargo capacity: 10.6 cubic feet

Convertible roof won't lock

Q: I have a 2013 Nissan 370Z roadster. Recently the convertible roof failed to lock. I continued trying to get it to lock and eventually it did. When it happened again, I took it to the Nissan dealer. They told me that Nissan doesn't repair the convertible, but they would diagnose the problem for \$756. Their diagnosis was that they think the roof lock was weak and should be replaced, but there could be other problems. The part would have to be ordered and it could take 6-12 months and would cost \$1,500. I called four other local Nissan dealers, and they told me they didn't have a technician who works on the 370Z. Any suggestions?

B.F., Syracuse, New York

A: The best place to get it fixed is a local convertible specialist shop. Have them take a look. They may possibly give you a more reasonable quote. They have probably already seen your problem as well as plenty of others. They have the skills and know-how and also know where to source replacement parts.

■■■■■

Q: I am a 28-year-old teacher. In early 2021, I had saved a bunch of money to buy my first car, a 2021 Nissan Rogue SV AWD. About 10,000 miles into my new car, the dealership informed me that all my car's components were running well (at a routine tire rotation and oil change), minus slight wear on my back left tire. At 20,000 miles, they informed me that around 25,000 miles the Nissan Rogues they were seeing were in need of a full set of new tires. When researching online the specific Hankook tires on my car, they seemingly have a warranty of 65,000 miles. However, both Nissan and Hankook won't honor

the warranty because "they were specifically manufactured to be on new Nissans." Do I have any recourse against either of these companies?

K.B., Chicago

A: It's a common industry practice to equip new vehicles with tires that aren't the same as those you buy as replacements. As such, there is no warranty from either the carmaker or the tire maker. However, you can replace the tires with the same brand and trust them to perform up to their stated warranty. Keep in mind that the warranty is prorated based on mileage and wear. You don't get brand new tires for free.

■■■■■

Q: When I signal to turn left or right, the corresponding headlight goes off until I complete the turn then comes back on. I swear this started recently as I never noticed it happening before, but the dealer said it has always been that way. I even called Nissan corporate. I was told the same thing. Can you shed some light on this? Makes no sense to me!

T.K., Victoria, Illinois

A: Since you are usually not in front of the vehicle, you usually do not see what the headlights and turn signals are doing until you see your reflection, such as on a glass store window. To make the turn signals stand out, the other lights are temporarily turned off. I think it is brilliant.

■■■■■

Q: The ABS light comes on much too frequently on my faithful 2002 Chevy Malibu with 167,000 miles. My mechanic suggested it may be a faulty sensor but suggests that the harness needs

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

to be replaced simultaneously. The problem is that he can't find the part. He says that people drove cars for years without ABS. However, I feel as if the brakes are constantly being ridden and fear the vehicle may be unsafe. Where might I be able to find parts for older Chevy vehicles?

P.B., Evanston, Illinois

A: I don't know which wheel needs the sensor, but if it is a typical AC Delco part number 22951116, it is available at just about any auto parts store. I even found one online at Home Depot. Sure, you could drive the car without anti-lock brakes, but why give up the safety? By the way, your brakes are not dragging.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

‘M3gan’ dolls up with \$30.2M while ‘Avatar’ stays No. 1

NEW YORK (AP)—The Blumhouse evil-doll horror film “M3gan” got off to a killer start, debuting with \$30.2 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates, while “Avatar: The Way of Water” continued its box-office reign in the top spot.

Universal Pictures’ “M3gan,” about a robot companion built for a young girl after her parents are killed in a car accident, rode strong buzz and viral dancing memes to an above-expectations debut. In the low-budget slasher, starring Allison Williams, Blumhouse and producer James Wan crafted Hollywood’s first hit of the new year, likely spawning a new high-concept horror franchise.

Audiences gave the PG-13

film a “B” CinemaScore—though reviews (94% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) were stronger for the modern, techy twist on a “Child’s Play”-like thriller. It added \$10 million internationally.

But while “M3gan” drew audiences largely in 2D showings, large-format screens continued to be soaked up by James Cameron’s “Avatar: The Way of Water.” The 3-D three-hour sequel remained No. 1 for the fourth straight week in U.S. and Canadian theaters with \$45 million in sales.

Cameron’s sci-fi spectacle has now surpassed \$500 million domestically and \$1.7 billion globally. After dominating the otherwise lackluster holiday corridor, the “Avatar”

sequel is nearly matching the original’s pace; the 2009 “Avatar” scored \$50.3 million in its fourth weekend. “The Way of Water” already ranks as the seventh highest grossing film ever, not accounting for inflation—a total particularly owed to its strong overseas performance. The film’s \$1.2 billion in international ticket sales exceeds that of any film released since the start of the pandemic.

“M3gan” was the only new film in wide release, though Sony Pictures’ “A Man Called Otto,” starring Tom Hanks, played in 637 theaters after first launching in four theaters. The

film, a remake of the Swedish film “A Man Called Ove,” managed a solid \$4.2 million ahead of its nationwide release on Friday.

Third place went to “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish,” with \$13.1 million in its third week of release. The animated Universal Pictures sequel has tallied \$87.7 million in three weeks, plus \$109.7 million internationally.

While many awards contenders have struggled in recent months at the box office, Darren Aronofsky’s “The Whale” is proving a modest exception. The A24 indie starring Bren-

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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|--|---|
| 1. “Avatar: The Way of Water,” \$45 million. | 6. “Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody,” \$2.4 million. |
| 2. “M3gan,” \$30.2 million. | 7. “The Whale,” \$1.5 million. |
| 3. “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish,” \$13.1 million. | 8. “Babylon,” \$1.4 million. |
| 4. “A Man Called Otto,” \$4.2 million. | 9. “Violent Night,” \$740,000. |
| 5. “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” \$4 million. | 10. “The Menu,” \$713,000. |

dan Fraser ranked seventh in its fifth week of release with \$1.5 million and a cumulative total

of \$8.6 million—a good return for a film that cost an estimated \$3 million to make.

‘Top Gun,’ Spielberg, Yeoh set to receive awards at the NBRs

NEW YORK (AP)—“Top Gun: Maverick,” Steven Spielberg and the stars of “The Banshees of Inisherin” are set to collect awards at Sunday night’s National Board of Review Awards in New York.



Yeoh

The National Board of Review, a long-running group of film enthusiasts and academics, names its winners ahead of its ceremony. “Top Gun: Maverick” was its pick for best film.

The annual untelevised gala is being held at Cipriani’s in midtown Manhattan and hosted by Willie Geist. Coming two days before the Golden Globes on Tuesday, the NBR Awards will help kick Hollywood’s awards season into high gear. Voting for nominations to the Academy Awards begins Thursday.

Other awards include Steven Spielberg (“The Fabelmans”) for best director, Colin Farrell (“The Banshees of Inisherin”) for best actor, his co-star Brendan Gleeson for best supporting actor, Michelle Yeoh (“Everything Everywhere All at Once”) for best actress and Janelle Monáe (“Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery”) for best supporting

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry defended his decision to publish a memoir that lays bare rifts inside Britain’s royal family, saying it’s an attempt to “own my story” after 38 years of “spin and distortion” by others.

Harry spoke to Britain’s ITV and CBS’s “60 Minutes” to promote his book, “Spare,” which has generated incendiary headlines with its details of private emotional turmoil and bitter family resentments.

In interviews broadcast Sunday, Harry accused members of the royal family of getting “into bed with the devil” to gain favorable tabloid coverage, claimed his stepmother Camilla, the queen consort, had leaked private conversations to the media and said his family was “complicit” in his wife Meghan’s “pain and suffering.”

Harry said Camilla had to rehabilitate her image with the British people after her long-

time affair with his father and that he was one of the victims of her efforts for better coverage in the tabloids.

“That made her dangerous because of the connections that she was forging within the British press,” he told CBS. “There was open willingness on both sides to trade information. And with a family built on hierarchy, and with her, on the way to being queen consort, there was gonna be people or bodies left in the street.”

He repeated his claim on ITV that there was “concern” in the royal family about his unborn child’s skin color after he married biracial American actress Meghan Markle, and said the British monarchy should address its attitudes to race.

Harry and Meghan first



Prince Harry

mentioned the incident during an interview with Oprah Winfrey in 2021. They have not identified the family member who expressed concern.

Harry said the episode was an example of unconscious bias rather

than racism, adding that the royal family needed to “learn and grow” in order to be “part of the solution rather than part of the problem.”

“Otherwise unconscious bias then moves into the category of racism,” Harry said. He said that “especially when you are the monarchy – you have a responsibility, and quite rightly people hold you to a higher standard than others.”

He said a recent incident in which a former lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth II asked a Black British woman where

she was “really” from was “a very good example of the environment within the institution.”

“Spare” explores Harry’s grief at the death of his mother in 1997, and his long-simmering resentment at the role of royal “spare,” overshadowed by the “heir”—older brother Prince William. He recounts arguments and a physical altercation with William, reveals how he lost his virginity (in a field) and describes using cocaine and cannabis.

He also says he killed 25 Taliban fighters while serving as an Apache helicopter pilot in Afghanistan—a claim criticized by both the Taliban and British military veterans.

Harry told ITV that he cried only once after his mother’s death—at her burial. He said he feels guilt about not showing emotion when he and William greeted crowds of mourners outside Kensington Palace, Diana’s London home.

Trauma and its fallout still linger for woman

DEAR ABBY: When I was 13, my 10-year-old cousin let a boy we did not know well into my house. Nobody else was there with us. He told her he wanted to “make out” with me, and he came upstairs. I confronted him and told him to leave. Later on, I told my mother about the incident, thinking I would be commended on my bravery.

Shortly afterward, against my will, she insisted my aunt, a hairstylist, cut my long hair up to my chin. I sobbed during the entire ordeal. My hair had given me confidence about my looks, which I needed because I was large-chested and embarrassed at that age about it. By cutting my hair against my will, my mother made me no longer trust her and think she didn’t love me or like me.

In later years, I realized she may have done it so I would not attract boys and there would be less risk of my being harmed by a boy like the one who got into our house. If that was the case, she should have sat me down and explained that the boy could have hurt, raped or even killed me. I am giving her the benefit of the doubt.

Recently, my aunt and I had a falling-out, and I remembered she was the one who actually did the cutting. I am feeling resentment toward her after all these years. I would like parents to know that cutting a teenager’s hair at such a vulnerable stage of their development should not be a punishment. It is disre-

spectful and oversteps a child’s boundaries. Am I correct in my thinking?

STILL REMEMBERS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR STILL REMEMBERS: Yes, you are. Your mother punished you for being an attractive young girl, which wasn’t your fault. What she did was a form of assault and blaming the victim, and it was outrageous. It’s a shame your aunt couldn’t have talked some sense into your mother.

P.S. You did nothing wrong. Your cousin let the boy into the house, and your cousin should have been lectured about it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I went through breast cancer a few years ago. My breasts are now two different sizes because of the lumpectomy. I wear a gel prosthetic in my bra to camouflage it, and I’m extremely self-conscious about it. Because of this, I haven’t dated in 10 years. How can I get past this fear of rejection?

OUT OF THE GAME IN ILLINOIS

DEAR OUT: I wish you had joined a cancer support group right after that lumpectomy. If you had, you would have received emotional support and tips for dating from other women who have had cancer surgery. Countless women have had breast surgery similar to yours.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



If a potential partner is interested in you as a person, they won’t be turned off by the fact that your breasts aren’t the same size. Many women are born with asymmetrical breasts and live full, happy lives. A way to get past this fear would be to open up and reach out. Another would be to talk to your doctor or a mental health professional. The only thing you SHOULDN’T do is hide yourself away as though having survived cancer is something to be ashamed of.

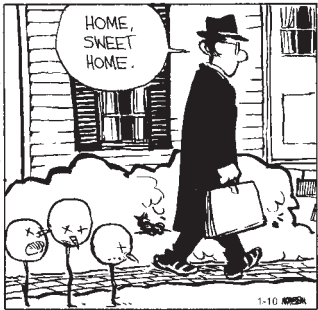
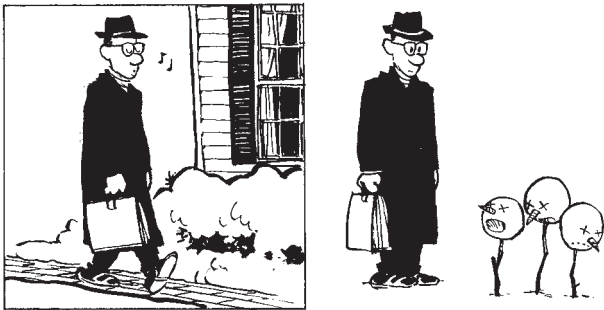
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

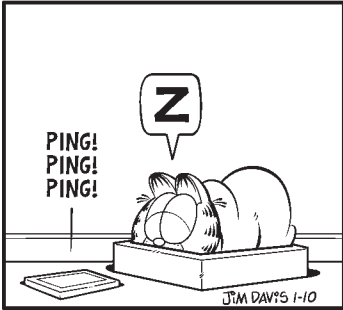
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



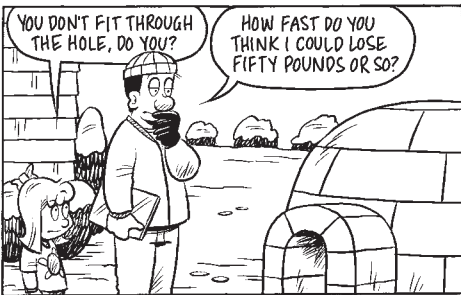
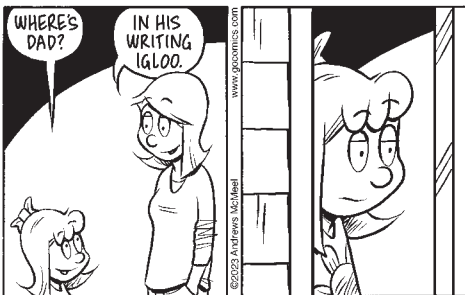
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



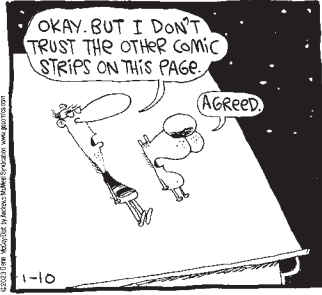
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Across: 1 Karate blow, 5 Bread spread, 8 Wheel-chair access, 12 Henry VIII's Catherine, 13 Olympics chant, 14 Soap additive, 15 Tree-planting celebration, 17 Great expectation, 18 Slapstick missile, 19 Trade, 21 Star, 24 Actress Farmiga, 25 Move, as freight, 26 Present time?, 30 Obama-care acronym, 31 Towel material, 32 Green prefix, 33 Thanks-giving, e.g. Down: 1 Financial pro, 2 Guffaw syllable, 3 Globe, 4 Push forward, 5 Law of "The Holiday", 6 Smile part, 7 Opie Taylor's town, 8 Gung-ho, 9 Oodles, 10 Sulk, 11 Equal, 16 Tease unit, 20 Bohe-mian, 21 Casual talk, 22 Apiece, 23 Maui meal, 24 Spread-ing fast on TikTok, 26 Sleeping cham-bers, 27 Mazar of "Younger", 28 Experts, 29 Bygone times, 31 Despot, 34 Moved un-steadily, 35 Donut fillers, 37 Enzyme suffix, 38 Tub session, 39 Theater award, 40 Sultry Horne, 41 Golden State sch., 44 Formerly called, 45 Homer's lament, 46 Navarro of "The View", 47 Ghanaian export.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evan Handler, 62; Pat Benatar, 70; George Foreman, 74; Rod Stewart, 78. Happy Birthday: You may crave change this year, but before you get started, put a budget in place. Consider how to make your money grow and your liabilities shrink. Paying down debt or selling off things you don't need will help. Shared expenses will lead to additional responsibilities. Concentrate on fitness, fun and spending time with someone who brings out the best in you. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 27, 33, 38, 45. ARIES (March 21-April 19): A change of heart will take you in a new direction. Change your resume to reflect what you enjoy doing most. Happiness is the result of doing what's best for you. Be bold and share your intentions with someone well-connected. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Conflicting information will leave you at a loss. Ask direct questions and update whatever is not up to par. Don't let a change someone makes cost you. Distance yourself from unsafe situations, and take on what's perceived as an impossible project. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spring past the competition; you'll gain respect and the assistance you require to bring about positive change. Don't say yes to someone without doing your research. An emotional challenge at home will require immediate attention if you want to avoid an argument. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take care of details and avoid falling behind. Problems concerning authority, government agencies and institutions will surface if you neglect to do your part. You may not welcome

change, but the benefits will outshine the liabilities once you embrace possibilities. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change in routine will affect your physical well-being. Don't overdo it or make promises you won't want to keep. A playful attitude coupled with lending a helping hand will win points and encourage exciting opportunities and long-term friendships. Invest in yourself. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional resentment will hold you back. Replace criticism and negativity with a positive spin that promises change. Work alongside those who like to experiment with their skills and knowledge using unorthodox applications. Don't rely on others. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Live up to your promises. Check the cost before signing up for something time-consuming to please someone other than yourself. Re-think your strategy and you'll devise a plan that makes you happy and doesn't disrupt someone's proposals. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't visit someone and arrive empty-handed. Taking a token of appreciation will set the stage for a warm welcome. Look at every angle when making decisions that influence your reputation or position. Choose a healthy lifestyle and avoid overindulgence. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take the path that makes you proud and encourages you to use your attributes to persuade others to contribute to your success. A kind word or compliment will lift someone's spirits and raise your profile. Romance and travel are on the rise.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



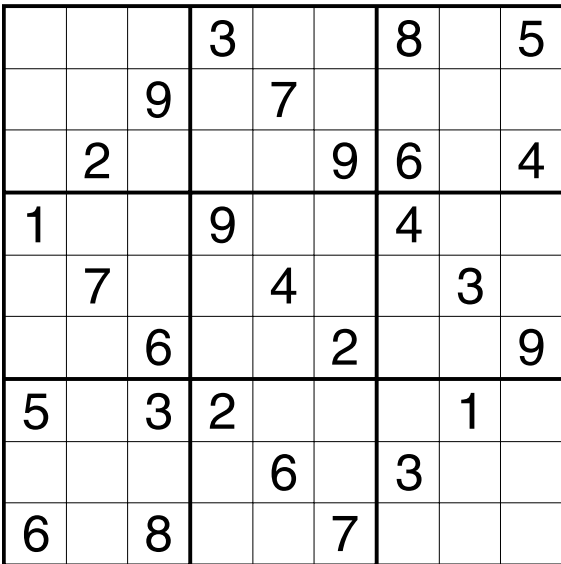
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your imagination and save time and money. An unexpected gift or gain will also cause concern. Don't lose sight of your long-term goal or the consequences of not doing what's necessary to reach your destination. Finish what you start. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Channel your energy into home improvement, which will replenish your imagination and enrich your skills and life. Love and romance are favored, and sharing your feelings will bring you closer to that special someone. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Step outside your comfort zone and address issues that concern you. The difference you make by speaking out will impress onlookers and put you in a position to advance. Call on those you enjoy working alongside, and you'll get good results. Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, proactive and entertaining. You are helpful and popular.

⚠: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ⚡: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 🔭: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 🏆: Aim high; start new projects. 💰: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

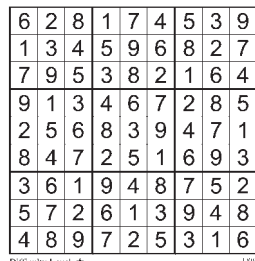
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ 1/10 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JERRY LEE LEWIS (1935-2022)

Solution: 9 letters

W T E U D R A O B L L I B S W
I I T H O N K Y J P W O H S
N B L S H E M N W A H S O A T
L I N D A Y E O E N O L G K A
A G K R M L D T I E E F I I G
I B H O B L L I G K B I E N E
T O I C U I E M O K E R R I E
N P G E R T Y O O L N E R A J
E P H R G N B L W O N A I P U
D E S L L A B T A E R C O L D
I R C T L H O E V I L G E A I
F O H C A C B E R N A O A Y T
N C O L C R T B A N D R R I H
O K O U E S D O R O T H Y I L
C A L B U M Y Z A R C A R M S

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Rodgers' late pick seals loss to Lions, playoffs for Seattle



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers was intercepted by Kerby Joseph on the final pass of what might be his last game, and the Green Bay Packers lost 20-16 to the Detroit Lions on Sunday night to miss the playoffs.

After winning four straight and receiving plenty of help from other teams, the Packers had control of their postseason fate heading into the final game of the NFL regular season. But they fell short against the Lions, who had been eliminated from the playoffs earlier Sunday when the Seattle Seahawks beat the Los Angeles Rams 19-16 in overtime.

Seattle instead earned the NFC's last playoff spot. The Packers (8-9) missed the playoffs for the first time in Matt LaFleur's four seasons as coach.

Rodgers went 17 of 27 for 205 yards with one touchdown in what may be the final appearance at Lambeau Field for the four-time MVP. Although he is under contract for next season, the 39-year-old Rodgers has said he doesn't know whether he will continue playing.

Jamaal Williams' second 1-yard touchdown run of the night against his former team put the Lions (9-8) ahead with 5:55 remaining. Williams finished with 17 rushing TDs runs to break the Lions' single-season record that Barry Sanders had set in 1991.

Green Bay only got as far as its own 33 on its next series before Joseph picked off Rodgers' deep throw on third-and-10 with 3 1/2 minutes left. Detroit held onto the ball for the remainder of the game, converting a fourth-and-1 to put it away.

Bills 35, Patriots 23

In Orchard Park, N.Y., Nyheim Hines ignited an emotionally charged atmosphere celebrating injured Bills safety Damar Hamlin by returning two kickoffs for touchdowns, and Buffalo beat New England to clinch the AFC's second playoff seed.

The loss, coupled with Miami beating the New York Jets, eliminated the Patriots (8-9) from the playoffs for the second time in three years and just the fourth time in 23 seasons under coach Bill Belichick. Buffalo will host the division rival Dolphins in the wild-card round next weekend.

With the game in hand, Bills players held up three fingers in honor of Hamlin's number with the crowd chanting "Hamlin! Hamlin!"

The Bills (13-3) closed their season by winning their final seven games and overcame



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) gets a hug from teammate Randall Cobb as the head off the field following an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Green Bay, Wis.

an emotional week in which Hamlin collapsed after going into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field in Cincinnati on Monday night.

Dolphins 9, Jets 6

In Miami Garden, Fla., Jason Sanders kicked a go-ahead 50-yard field goal with 18 seconds left, and Miami beat New York to make the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

The banged-up Dolphins (9-8) snapped a five-game losing streak and then had to wait a few minutes for Buffalo to defeat New England to make their postseason appearance official. Seventh-seeded Miami will play at second-seeded Buffalo next weekend. The AFC East rivals split the season series with each winning at home.

Neither team scored a touchdown with rookie Skylar Thompson starting at quarterback for the Jets and veteran Joe Flacco under center for the Dolphins.

Seahawks 19, Rams 16, OT

In Seattle, Jason Myers kicked a 32-yard field goal midway through overtime and Seattle beat Los Angeles.

A few hours later, the Seahawks secured a playoff berth when Detroit beat Green Bay. Seattle (9-8) eliminated Detroit from playoff contention, then got the help it needed from the Lions to become the No. 7 seed in the NFC. The Seahawks will open the playoffs at San Francisco next weekend.

Myers missed from 46 yards when he hit the upright on the final play of regulation, but given another shot in overtime, the Pro Bowler connected on his fourth field goal of the game.

Eagles 22, Giants 16

In Philadelphia, Jalen Hurts returned from a sprained right shoulder and threw for 229 yards as Philadelphia beat New York to clinch the top seed in the NFC.

Hurts was back for the first time in three weeks — and now so are the Eagles (14-3) as a Super Bowl threat. Philadelphia rebounded from two straight losses behind backup QB Gardner Minshew.

Hurts was 20-of-35 passing in a game that had a preseason feel — the Eagles scored one touchdown in five trips to the red zone. Jake Elliott kicked five field goals for Philadelphia.

Hurts completed a 35-yard pass to A.J. Brown on the Eagles' first play and showed no ill effects from the sprained right shoulder suffered three weeks ago. The Eagles played at half-speed against the Giants backups and refused to risk Hurts' health — they did not call any rushing plays for him.

49ers 38, Cardinals 13

In Santa Clara, Calif., Brock Purdy threw three touchdown passes for his sixth straight game with multiple TDs and San Francisco beat Arizona to secure the No. 2 seed in the AFC playoffs.

Purdy overcame two sacks by J.J. Watt in the final game of the star defensive end's career and connected with George Kittle twice and Christian McCaffrey once on TD passes to lead the Niners (13-4) to their 10th straight win.

San Francisco beat out Minnesota on a tiebreaker for the second seed, assuring the 49ers won't have to go on the road before the NFC title game. The Niners weren't

able to secure a first-round bye because Philadelphia beat the New York Giants.

Bengals 27, Ravens 16

In Cincinnati, Joe Burrow threw for a touchdown and Joe Mixon ran for another as Cincinnati took advantage of four Baltimore turnovers to set up a rematch in the first round of the playoffs next week.

The AFC North champion Bengals (12-4) — playing on the same field where Buffalo's Damar Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest in a horrifying scene six days ago — beat a Ravens team that rested some key players ahead of the postseason. Cincinnati closed the regular season with eight straight wins.

Cincinnati also avoided a coin flip to determine the site of its playoff game against Baltimore. The Bengals were unhappy with the prospect of a coin flip costing them a home playoff game and mocked the rule change with a coin-flip celebration after Mixon's TD.

Cincinnati's chances at the No. 2 seed in the AFC ended when Buffalo beat New England.

Steelers 28, Browns 14

In Pittsburgh, Najee Harris ran for 84 yards and a touchdown and Pittsburgh beat Cleveland but was eliminated from the playoffs when Miami edged the New York Jets.

The Steelers (9-8) will have to settle for a 16th straight non-losing season under coach Mike Tomlin, fueled by a 7-2 finish. Pittsburgh's ugly 2-6 start included an injury to star linebacker T.J. Watt and rookie quarterback Kenny Pickett's ascension to the starting job at halftime of a Week 4 loss to the Jets.

Pickett completed 13 of 29 passes for 195 yards and a touchdown and avoided an interception for the sixth time in his last seven appearances.

Pittsburgh's defense sacked Deshaun Watson seven times to assure the Steelers of finishing ahead of the Browns (7-10) in the standings for the 34th consecutive time.

Cleveland has had 17 seasons of 10 losses or more since the franchise rebooted in 1999.

Texans 32, Colts 31

In Indianapolis, Davis Mills threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Akins on fourth down with 50 seconds left and then connected with Akins on the 2-point conversion as Houston beat Indianapolis to cost itself the first pick in April's draft.

Houston (3-13-1) won twice in the final three weeks to finish second to the Chicago Bears in draft positioning.

Indy (4-12-1) lost its seventh straight under interim coach Jeff Saturday, assuring itself of a top-five draft selection.

Sam Ehlinger threw two touchdown passes and led the Colts to scores on three consecutive late drives to erase a 10-point deficit and give Indy a 31-24 lead with 3:33 to play.

Mills answered with a 30-yard completion on fourth-and-12 to move Houston to the Indy 18-yard line with 1:26 left. And after throwing two incompletions and getting sacked on third down, Mills' throw to the end zone went through the hands of Colts safety Rodney Thomas II and into the hands of Akins.

Vikings 29, Bears 13

In Chicago, Kirk Cousins threw for 225 yards and a touchdown in the first half and watched the rest of the way as NFC North champion Minnesota tuned up for the playoffs by beating Chicago.

Cousins led three scoring drives as the Vikings (13-4) grabbed a 16-6 halftime lead. They remained in control the rest of the way.

The Bears (3-14), who held out star Justin Fields, set a franchise record with their 14th loss and extended one by dropping their 10th game in a row. With Houston winning 32-31 at Indianapolis, Chicago gets the No. 1 pick in the draft for the first time since 1947.

Cousins completed 17 of 20 passes while posting a 130.2 rating. He hit K.J. Osborn for a 66-yard completion on Minnesota's first possession, setting up a 4-yard touchdown to Adam Thielen, and led two more scoring drives.

Commanders 26, Cowboys 6

In Landover, Md., Dak Prescott completed just 14 of his 37 passes for 128 yards and threw another interception that was returned for a touchdown as playoff-bound Dallas lost to Washington in its regular-season finale.

Despite playing their starters with coach Mike McCarthy pledging they were playing to win, the Cowboys (12-5) limped into the playoffs and a wild-card showdown at Tampa Bay next weekend with Prescott on a career-long seven-game interception streak.

Beyond getting picked off by Kendall Fuller on the pick-6, Prescott was wildly inaccurate and the Dallas offense had just 169 total yards before he was replaced by Cooper Rush in garbage time.

The Cowboys' slim chance of winning the NFC East ended when Philadelphia beat the New York Giants.

Falcons 30, Buccaneers 17

In Atlanta, rookie Desmond Ridder's first two career touchdown passes powered Atlanta past playoff-bound Tampa Bay after Tom Brady broke his own NFL record for completions in a season.

Brady left the game late in the first half with the score tied at 10. He had been 11-0 in his career against Atlanta, including New England's 34-28 win over the Falcons in the Super Bowl following the 2016 season.

The Falcons can now claim to be responsible for Brady's first losing final record in a regular season.

Brady and Tampa Bay's other healthy regulars started even though the Buccaneers (8-9) had secured the NFC South title and were locked in as the NFC's No. 4 seed in the playoffs.

Panthers 10, Saints 7

In New Orleans, Eddy Pineiro kicked a 42-yard field goal as time expired and Carolina beat New Orleans.

The Saints finished with some wide statistical advantages, outgaining Carolina 304 yards to 203, but the game remained tight until the end because of New Orleans' inability to score on four possessions inside the Panthers 40-yard line.

The Saints (7-10) were in position to win when safety Daniel Sorensen intercepted Sam Darnold near midfield and returned it to the Carolina 35 with 1:36 to go. But New Orleans failed to move the ball on three plays and Wil Lutz missed a 55-yard field goal attempt — his second miss of the game.

Grizzlies, without Morant, beat Jazz, extend win streak to 6



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Desmond Bane had 24 points and nine assists, Tyus Jones added 21 points and the Memphis Grizzlies, playing without leading scorer Ja Morant, defeated the Utah Jazz 123-118 on Sunday.

Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 19 points, eight rebounds and five blocks as Morant was a late scratch with right thigh soreness. That led to Jones running the first unit for Memphis. Jones also had six assists as Memphis won its sixth straight.

"It's just next man up. Be ready when your name is called," Jones said of filling in for Morant. "Being ready for your opportunity. No excuses. Just play ball."

Lauri Markkanen led the Jazz with 21 points, while Kelly Olynyk added 19 points. Each also had eight rebounds. Jordan Clarkson had 17 points before he was ejected late in the third quarter, and Malik Beasley added 15 points. Rookie Walker Kessler finished with 10 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks.

In addition to Morant, Memphis was without center Steven Adams, sidelined with a non-COVID illness. That took the Grizzlies' leading scorer and top rebounder off the floor.

For Bane, it was a continuation of trying to get back in shape after missing 17 games with a right big toe sprain. The win was his seventh game back, and he estimates he has a few more before his cardio is where he wants it.

"I'm getting there slowly but surely," said Bane, who was 4 of 7 from 3-point range. "I'm still a little ways away. But I mean, the feel, the rhythm, I think it's starting to come."

There were times when the Jazz made a run, cutting into the Grizzlies' lead, which reached 16 points early in the third quarter, but settled into

single digits late. Utah just didn't seem to have that late push to overcome the Memphis advantage.

"There were a few possessions where we had our chances," said guard Mike Conley, who finished with seven points and eight assists. "We just turned it over and gave them easy opportunities in transition."

Utah has struggled of late, losing seven of eight.

A 43-point second quarter gave the Grizzlies a 66-52 lead at the half. Despite shooting 51% in the first periods, Utah was hampered by a dozen turnovers.

Things got testy late in the third quarter when Clarkson was called for a Flagrant 2 against Bane, leading to Clarkson's ejection. That contributed to Memphis carrying a 98-90 lead. As Clarkson left the court, he raised his arms encouraging the Memphis fans to continue their boos.

For Utah, the loss is the latest in dealing with the ebbs and flows of the season. Utah played well early, but the road has been difficult lately.

"We have a long view with our team right now in terms of there's 39 games to go," Jazz coach Will Hardy said. "Losing hurts in the moment, but we have to maintain our approach and try to control what we can control."

Nets 102, Heat 101

In Miami, Royce O'Neale's putback with 3.2 seconds gave Brooklyn the lead, and the Nets beat the Heat in a game where Kevin Durant left early with a right knee injury.

Kyrie Irving scored 29 to lead the Nets, who have now won 18 of their last 20 — after winning only nine of their first 20 games. Durant had 17 before departing and Seth Curry scored 14 for Brooklyn.

Nic Claxton had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets.

Jimmy Butler scored 26 for Miami, which got 24 from



Memphis Grizzlies guard Desmond Bane shoots against Utah Jazz forward Lauri Markkanen (23) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.

Tyler Herro. Butler missed a contested shot at the rim on the game's final play, and Herro was shaken up on it as well before limping off — replays showing he may have slipped.

76ers 123, Pistons 111

In Detroit, James Harden had 20 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists to lead Philadelphia to a comfortable victory over Detroit.

Tyrese Maxey added 23 points and Montrez Harrell scored 20 for the Sixers, who have won four of five.

Killian Hayes scored 25 points for Detroit, which has alternated wins and losses in its last seven games after a six-game losing streak. Isaiah Stewart finished with 20 points and 13 rebounds, while Bojan Bogdanovic had 20 points.

The Sixers led 71-54 at

halftime, thanks to Harrell's 16 points and Harden's 13 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Harden only needed 27 seconds in the second half to complete his triple-double, setting up Tobias Harris' basket to put Philadelphia up by 19.

Pacers 116, Hornets 111

In Indianapolis, Myles Turner scored 29 points, Buddy Hield had 21 and Indiana capped the first half of its regular-season schedule with a comeback victory over Charlotte.

Tyrese Haliburton finished with 16 points, 13 assists and five rebounds for the Pacers, who trailed by nine early in the fourth quarter and needed a series of clutch plays in the final minutes to improve their record to 23-18 at the midpoint.

P.J. Washington had 22 points and five rebounds for

the Hornets. Terry Rozier chipped in 19 points, six assists and six boards, and Mason Plumlee wound up with 18 points and 13 rebounds.

Raptors 117, Trail Blazers 105

In Toronto, Pascal Siakam scored 27 points, Scottie Barnes had 22 and Toronto snapped a three-game losing streak by beating Portland.

Gary Trent Jr. scored 19 against his former team and Fred VanVleet and O.G. Anunoby each had 14 as the Raptors halted a five-game losing streak against Portland.

Toronto won for the second time in nine home games, and the fourth time in its past 15 overall.

Damian Lillard scored 14 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter but Portland's road losing streak reached seven.

Jusuf Nurkic had 14 points and 18 rebounds, Anfernee Simons scored 22 points and Josh Hart had 18. Portland has lost three straight and seven of nine.

Cavaliers 112, Suns 98

PHOENIX (AP)—Darius Garland and Donovan Mitchell both scored 22 points and Cleveland pulled away late to beat banged-up Phoenix.

The Cavaliers won for the fourth time in five games. It's the second time this week the Cavs have topped the Suns after beating them 90-88 on Wednesday.

Struggling Phoenix — playing without their All-Star backcourt of Chris Paul and Devin Booker — has dropped six in a row and nine of 10. The Suns now have a

20-21 record, which is the first time they have been under .500 all season.

The offensively challenged Suns failed to top 100 points for a fourth straight game.

Thunder 120, Mavericks 109

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points, and Oklahoma City beat Dallas.

It was supposed to be a showdown between two of the league's top scorers in Gilgeous-Alexander and Dallas guard Luka Doncic, but Doncic — the NBA's scoring leader with 34 points per game — sat out with a sore left ankle. Doncic had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists Saturday in a win over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Gilgeous-Alexander, a guard who entered the night fourth in the league with 30.9 points per game, made 11 of 17 field goals and 11 of 13 free throws.

Christian Wood had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Spencer Dinwiddie added 21 points and eight assists for the Mavericks.

Timberwolves 104, Rockets 96

In Houston, D'Angelo Russell scored 22 points and Anthony Edwards added 21 as Minnesota overcame a big early deficit to beat Houston for its fourth straight win.

Minnesota scored the first 11 points of the fourth quarter to take an 88-81 lead. Rudy Gobert had four points in that span and Taurean Prince added a 3-pointer. Houston missed six shots and had a turnover to help the Timberwolves go on top.

Porter had 25 points and Alperen Sengun added 18 for the Rockets, who dropped their seventh in a row. Jalen Green had a tough game, making just four of 15 shots overall, including just one of six 3-point attempts to finish with nine points.

Hawks 112, Clippers 108

In Los Angeles, Trae Young scored 30 points and Atlanta sent reeling Los Angeles to its season-worst sixth-straight loss.

De'Andre Hunter added 20 points for the Hawks, who blew a 17-point, first-half lead before rallying from 11 points down in the fourth to pull out the win.

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 29 points. Ivica Zubac had 17 points and 18 rebounds on a night when Paul George missed his second straight game with right hamstring soreness.

White Sox closer Hendriks says he has non-Hodgkin lymphoma



CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago White Sox closer Liam Hendriks says he has non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Hendriks announced Sunday on Instagram that he was diagnosed in recent days. The three-time All-Star was scheduled to begin treatment on Monday.

"Hearing the word 'Cancer' came as a shock to my wife and I, as it does to millions of families each year," he wrote. "However, I am resolved to embrace the fight and overcome this new challenge with the same deter-

mination I have used when facing other obstacles in my life."

Hendriks said he is "confident" he will "make a full recovery and be back on the mound as soon as possible."

"I know with the support of my wife, my family, my teammates and the Chicago White Sox organization, along with the treatment and care from my doctors, I will get through this," he said.

The five-year survival rate for non-Hodgkin lymphoma is 73.8%, according to the National Cancer Institute. Some forms are aggressive while others are slow grow-

ing.

General manager Rick Hahn said in a statement the White Sox don't expect to have an update on Hendriks' status prior to opening day.

"Our thoughts and reactions at this time are for Liam the person, not Liam the baseball player," he said. "I know the entire Chicago White Sox organization, our staff, his teammates, and certainly White Sox fans, will rally in support of Liam and Kristi during the coming months. Knowing everyone involved, especially Liam, we are optimistic he will pitch again for the White Sox as soon as

viable. In the meantime, we all will do everything in our power to support our teammate and his family as they face this challenge, while also respecting their privacy."

Hendriks was third in the majors with 37 saves and made his third All-Star team last season. He led the American League with a career-high 38 saves in 2021, after leaving Oakland to sign a \$54 million, three-year contract with the White Sox.

Hendriks has 115 saves and a 3.81 ERA over 12 seasons with Minnesota, Toronto, Kansas City, Oakland and Chicago.

Ramsey, Elliot lead early tennis rankings



Elliot



Ramsey

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

National tennis players Colin Ramsey and Hye Jin Elliot are atop the heap in the men's and women's open rankings of the Northern Mariana Islands

Tennis Association.

With just one tournament completed—the 2022 TanHoldings Tennis Classic—Ramsey finds himself with 1,000 points to lead the men's open division after winning the tournament in November last year.

The player he beat, Moris Villanueva, is second in the

rankings with 750 points while following the Crown Plaza Resort tennis pro is a couple of vets—national tennis coach and CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race and Tomas Abel—with 500 points apiece.

In the women's open rankings, Elliot also has 1,000 points after winning the Tan-

Holdings tourney. National squad teammate and Saipan International School school-

mate Serin Chung is second with 750 points, while Hoo Wang and Anne Lee share third place with 500 points apiece.

La Hunn Lam, who last year became the youngest ever player to suit up in Wimbledon, leads the rankings in the men's 4.0 with his 1,250 points. He's followed by Si Woo Lee with his 750 points, while Tahir Shakir and Wataru Kadokura share the third spot with identical 500 points.

Hannaeh Chae has the No. 1 spot in the women's 4.0 with her 1,000 points, followed by Irin Chung's 750 points. Grace Choi and Savita Sikkel are joint third with 500 points each.

Marlon Bercilla's 1,250 points paces the men's 3.0 with John Casauran second with 750 points. Jess Sablan and Daniel Zhao are tied for third with 500 points.

Michelle Park's 1,000 points holds the pole position in the women's 2.0. Jalexia

Rulona is second with her 750 points, while La Mee Lam and Jocelyn Paano are tied at third with 500 points apiece.

Paul Jang tops the men's 40+ with his 1,000 points with Eric Abragan second with his 750 points. Edwin Simbulan closes out the Top 3 with his 600 points.

Dong Min Lee is numero uno in the men's 50+ with his 325 points with Ronnie Lacbayo, Roy Pangelinan, and Jeff Race closely following with 250 points each.

In the women's 50+, Lydia Tan is in the lead with 250 points with Eunkyong Lee and Annie Lai in second and third with 200 points and 100 points, respectively.

David Lai's 1,000 points currently leads the men's 60+ rankings with the 938 points of Felix Rulona a close second. John Bradley is third with his 625 points.

The NMITA junior rankings will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

COLISAO

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now and seeing this growth is really amazing to me... To see the fruit of my labor is amazing—it really is. I just can't wait to get to more competitions and train more."

"Being surrounded by these guys is amazing. I'm grateful for it," said Colisao about the competition.

Lyle Andrew came in second to Colisao after lifting a total of 170 kg, successfully lifting a 75-kg snatch and a 95-kg clean & jerk. He failed his snatch attempts of 80 kg and clean & jerk attempts of 95 and 100 kg.

David Barnhouse pulled out of the competition after completing the snatch portion so as to not injure himself further after tweaking a muscle during one of his lifts. He lifted 100 kg and 105 kg successfully and failed 112 kg.

In the 109-kg category, San Nicolas successfully lifted five out of his six attempts for a total weight lifted of 290 kg and simultaneously broke two of his personal bests in both the

snatch and clean & jerk.

He pulled a personal best of 125 kg in the snatch after lifting 115 kg and 120 kg, while he set a new personal best in the clean & jerk as well after pulling 165 kg for his second attempt. He first lifted 155 kg and failed a 170-kg third attempt.

"Although I did not get a 100%, I gave my 100%. I lifted significantly more than I did in the [Pacific] Mini Games," San Nicolas said about his lifts.

Santos, who recently ranked No. 2 in the 2022 Top 10 rankings of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, topped his 67-kg division.

He lifted a total of 212 kg after completing all six lifts. In the snatch, he lifted 70 kg, 86 kg, and 92 kg, while in the clean & jerk, he lifted 90 kg, 106 kg, and 120 kg.

Young buck John Castro was second to Santos after lifting a total of 63 kg. He lifted a 25 kg and 28 kg snatch and lifted a 35 kg clean & jerk.

Despite lifting all attempts strongly, Santos said "My performance that day was

not the best, [but] I am happy that I didn't miss any lifts that day. It wasn't the best because I just got back from vacation and haven't been training consistently. I've been focusing on jiu-jitsu at Trench Tech and I think that helps me stay in shape. No PRs this time around, but now I know where I stand with the numbers I lifted that day. I will get back to training and see where it goes from here."

In the other men's division results, Emmanuel Aquino was the lone competitor and lifted a total of 200 kg. He successfully lifted an 85-kg snatch after failing two previous attempts, and succeeded in lifting 105 kg and 115 kg for the clean & jerk portion. He failed the 121 kg last attempt as he twisted his ankle and fell.

In the men's 89-kg weight class, Raymond Olopai topped it with a total weight of 180 kg; second place was Joseph Pangelinan with a total weight of 170 kg; third was Deion Sabino with a total weight of 169 kg; and fourth was youngster Aiden Gimed with a total weight of 120 kg.

year!" he said.

Founded by CNMI Sports Hall of Famers Bill and Jean Sakovich in 1974, SSC is an age group swim club on Saipan that practices year round and participates in local and off-island meets.

2022 strong by holding the open water long distance swim last Christmas Eve.

"Our B, BB, and junior and senior swimmers completed their last long distance open water swim of 2022 last Dec. 24 to cap the

ROCBALL

From Page 20

of the Kenya Rocball association has also asked me to write a letter to their state authorities to allow them to apply for a visa to visit Saipan to learn more about Rocball. They want to set up an African Rocball Association," he said.

At the local level, Feger said Rocball is alive and well in the campus of the largest high school in the CNMI—Marianas High School.

"We started our Rocball practice games about a month ago. There are eight teams registered for the 2023 Rocball season. I'll be giving out more of the Rocball trademarked shirts to players of the week. I'll be ordering another three dozen of the trademarked shirts for Rocball players in the 2023 season."

Feger added that after an absence of a couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Japan Exchange Cultural and Sport Exchange will return this year with Rocball included in the program.

As the CNMI's indigenous sport, Feger said Rocball has truly passed the test of time.

"Rocball is a best practice lesson plan that has been played at the public schools of Hopwood Jr. High School and Marianas High School since 1981. Rocball is the only annual sport that has been played as an intramural and interscholastic sport without any interruptions for over 40 years on a [Public School System] campus because of lack of funds. And, the news releases over those 40 years not only



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rocball founder James Feger does the coin toss during an international game between Thailand and Pakistan in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rocball founder James Feger during his most recent trip to India last year.

highlighted a team's win-loss record and game points, but Rocball has been by far the sport that has most often done news releases on individual players."

Feger is also mighty proud that Rocball is the first sport to include 3-point scoring, unrestricted hitting/kicking, and rally point scoring before the team net sports of basketball and volleyball adopted these creative forms of competition in the late 1980s and

mid-1990s.

"Rocball is the first team net sport in the world to create unrestricted hitting and kickin in a team net sport. Rocball is the team net sport that invented rally poinr scoring and that has been documented and registered copyrighted since 1980. And, the bare facts and truth is that because of Rocball, the sport of volleyball changed their rules of play in 1995 and I have a letter from FIVB to prove it," he added.

AKIMARU

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Carcass (01:54.10 5).

SSC head coach Richard Sikkel said he's happy that the club was able to finish



Rodgers' late pick
seals loss to Lions,
playoffs for Seattle

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Colisao, San Nicolas, Santos top divisions



LEIGH GASES

Joey Colisao set a new personal best in the clean & jerk by lifting 155 kg in the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES

Angel San Nicolas topped his 109-kg division with a total weight lifted of 290 kg during the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES

Ray Santos topped his 67-kg division with a total weight lifted of 212 kg during the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Recent Mini Games gold medalists Joey Colisao, Angel San Nicolas, and Raymond Santos stamped their class anew by topping their respective weight classes in the snatch and clean & jerk lifts last Saturday in the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Colisao, who recently made it to the Top 1 of the 2022 Top 10 rankings of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation, broke two of his personal best lifts in the 109 kg+ division and topped it as well with a whopping 281-kg total lift.

For the snatch portion, he

successfully lifted his personal best of 126 kg, lifted 150 kg in the clean & jerk for a personal best, then proceeded to break that record right after when he lifted 155 kg.

His other successful snatch attempts were 100 kg and 120 kg, while his first clean & jerk

attempt was 120 kg. He failed to hold out long enough to get a successful attempt at 170 kg.

Colisao said after the event that he went really big this time around but that he wasn't supposed to, but that he got riled up and stayed in the zone. "So I did great overall. I've been training especially hard

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Rocball founder again bound for India this summer

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Jim Feger, the creator of the CNMI's indigenous sport of Rocball, will be traveling to India this summer to once again promote the sport in the South Asian country.

"I've been to India twice in the last two years with matters concerning Rocball. In India, the sport of Rocball is played in every state at different age groups for both men and women. I'll be traveling to India this summer as a guest of

India for the sport of Rocball."

The longtime Marianas High School physical education teacher said there are thousands more Rocball teams in India and there are hundreds

of players in Pakistan and Bangladesh that have organized into Rocball teams at the local and national level.

"Moreover, the president See ROCBALL on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rocball founder James Feger, top, officiates a Rocball game in India in 2019.

Akimaru leads SSC 10K swim



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim's Club members brace for the start of the Winter Swim race held in the waters off West Coast Restaurant last Dec. 24.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Budapest FINA World Championship veteran Taiyo Akimaru topped Saipan Swim's Club's 100x100 race held in the waters off West Coast Restaurant last Dec. 24.

The 11th grader from Marianas High School completed the 10-kilometer open water swim in 02:44.43.

Akimaru said despite the almost freezing conditions, swimming the 100x100 was "very fun."

"I felt good swimming and topping the 10K swim. Just

did my best to keep my pace steady to not let anyone over-lap me," he said.

Jakey Deleon came second in the race, dubbed the Winter Swim for obvious reasons, after reaching the beach in 02:52.15, while closing out the Top 3 was Michael Miller in 02:55.02.

The rest of the swimmers that took part in the long distance race were Moshe Sikkell (03:06.51), Jinie Thompson (03:07.36), and Savita Sikkell (03:19.31).

In the 100x50 race, Matthew Szepler was first in 01:49.37, followed by Jack

Raho (01:56.65) and ZenoIwami (01:58.18)

The rest of the swimmers who tested their endurance in the 5K swim were Tristan Raho (02:00.41), Piper Raho (02:03.35), and Nagi Tenorio (02:03.43).

And last but not the least, 11-year-old Sofia Cariaso won the 50x50 race after she emerged from the surf in 01:24.52. P.J. Seman came in second in 01:36.44 2, while Mia Camacho came in third in 01:36.52.

The rest of the tadpoles in the 2.5K swim were Adele Raho (01:49.35), Scarlett Burrell (01:49.35), and Gabriel

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